

Finland seeks Israeli action

HELSINKI (R) — Finland Tuesday called on Israel to ensure the speediest possible unconditional release of 21 Finnish U.N. troops taken hostage by an Israeli-backed militia in South Lebanon, a Foreign Ministry statement said. The Finns from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) have been held by the South Lebanese Army (SLA) since Friday. The statement, issued by Foreign Ministry Department chief Seppo Pietinen, said Finland considered it possible for the Israeli government to obtain the release of the Finns. Mr. Pietinen said he had told Israeli Ambassador Yehuda Horan during talks at the ministry that "the prisoners should be freed without conditions." He said the ministry's intention was "to step up pressure on the points at which we think a solution can be found."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تأسست عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

East, West swap prisoners

WEST BERLIN (R) — The United States Tuesday handed over four convicted spies in return for 23 prisoners from East German and Polish jails in what diplomats described as probably the biggest swap of its kind since World War II. A senior State Department official said the exchange was made early Tuesday on Glienicke Bridge in Berlin, scene of several spy swaps over the past 20 years, and crowned three years of secret negotiations. The four spies, two East Germans, a Bulgarian and a Pole, were flown into West Berlin from the United States overnight and handed over at the middle of the bridge, linking West Berlin and East Germany, at midday. Two additional people held by the communists and covered by the deal remained behind to settle family affairs and would be allowed to leave later for the West with their families, the U.S. official said.

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Regent sends good wishes to Marcos

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday sent a cable to President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines congratulating him on the occasion of the Philippines' National Day. The Regent wished President Marcos success in leading his people to progress and prosperity.

Royal Decrees approve appointments

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the appointment of Mr. Hassan Al Kayed as director general of the Free Zones corporation and Mr. Adnan Mirza as director general of the civil status department. Another Royal Decree has also approved the appointment of both Mr. Mijhim Khreishah and Jawdat Muhaseen as governors at the Ministry of Interior. Another decree approved a cabinet decision to appoint Mr. Wael Touqqa as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the state of Kuwait.

Thatcher may visit Egypt and Jordan

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Tuesday she wanted to visit Egypt and Jordan this summer but ruled out a personal Middle East peace initiative. Mrs. Thatcher, responding to a question in parliament, said she had been invited to visit the two Arab countries several times. "I think by the time the long recess comes, it is about time I accepted that very kind invitation," she said. Parliament goes into recess at the end of July. Mrs. Thatcher said she would not intervene directly to try to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Her policy was to keep in close touch with the United States and the parties involved in conflict, she said.

Urguhart arrives in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.N. Under-Secretary-General Brian Urguhart arrived in Israel Tuesday seeking a speedy release of 21 Finnish soldiers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) held by Israeli-backed militiamen in South Lebanon.

Geneva teams discuss space arms

GENEVA (R) — U.S. and Soviet arms control negotiators held almost 3½ hours of talks on space weapons Tuesday. U.S. delegation spokesman Terry Shroeder told reporters. The meeting at the Soviet mission was the second session devoted to space arms since the talks began their latest round on May 30.

Kyprianou, Greek premier hold talks

ATHENS (R) — Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou held talks Tuesday with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu on prospects for settling the future of the divided Mediterranean island, Greek officials said. Cyprus: 60,000 Turkish settlers living in north, page 2

Hijacked Alia plane returns to Beirut

Gunmen demand talks with religious leaders

BEIRUT (Agencies) — An airliner of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, hijacked in Beirut Tuesday morning returned to the Lebanese capital more than 13 hours later, after it flew to Cyprus and Sicily and Tunisia rejected the hijackers' demand that it be allowed to land in Tunis.

The Boeing 727 touched down at Beirut airport at 10:40 p.m. (1940 GMT), airport officials said.

The aircraft, with 74 people and the hijackers aboard, had earlier made refuelling stops in Larnaca, Cyprus, and Palermo, Sicily, and authorities in both places said the armed men who seized the plane had refused to release women and children among the passengers.

At least four gunmen seized the jet shortly after 9 a.m. (0600 GMT), reportedly shooting as they took control as passengers were boarding the craft. Those passengers not yet aboard ran for safety, and confusion has persisted throughout the plane's long journey over the number of the hijackers.

In Amman, Munib Toukan, a vice-president of Alia, said after the plane landed at Beirut that the passengers and crew "are in excellent condition."

"We're awaiting final word from Beirut, hoping that the hijackers would leave the aircraft and we'll get passengers and crew and the aircraft safely back to Amman," he said.

At least two previous hijacks that wound up at Beirut airport ended with those who seized the planes slipping away before authorities could seize them.

However, in this case, one of the hijackers radioed ahead to say he wanted to be met by several leading Lebanese Muslims when the plane landed in the war-torn city.

Beirut airport is usually closed at night, but control tower officials said all runway lights were switched on about 10 minutes before the Boeing landed.

Alia officials in Amman said earlier they had secured permission for the plane to land after its travel around the Mediterranean.

One hijacker, who identified himself as Nazim, radioed to the control tower about 20 minutes before the plane touched down saying he was heading for Beirut.

He named five senior Shi'ite and Sunni-Muslim politicians and clerics he said he wanted at the airport for negotiations.

Earlier, the Voice of Lebanon said a male caller claimed responsibility for the hijacking on behalf of a Shi'ite Muslim group. The man, claiming to represent the "Imam Moussa Sadr suicide squad" or "Imam Ali Forces", demanded that no Palestinians remain in refugee camps in Lebanon.

Imam Moussa Sadr was the spiritual leader of Lebanon's Shi'ites. He disappeared after a visit to Libya in 1978, and Shi'ite militants have hijacked several planes since then to call attention to the case.

The radio reported the caller rang twice to say the hijackers carried six Kalashnikov rifles, 15 bombs and 50 kilograms of TNT.

He demanded as well as the removal of Palestinians from their camps in Beirut that Alia close its offices in Beirut by Wednesday and stop flying to Beirut.

Amal and Shi'ite troops in the Lebanese army assaulted Palestinian camps in Beirut last month to try to take control of the camps and are besieging the camps.

An Alia spokesman said in Amman that the plane, on a regular RJ402 flight from Beirut to Amman, already had 65 passengers on board when the hijackers stormed the plane. The rest of the 117 passengers, who were identifying their baggage before boarding the aircraft, apparently fled the tarmac to the airport terminal.

The Alia spokesman, quoted by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the 65 passengers aboard the plane included 51 Lebanese, eight Jordanians, two Americans and one each from the Dominican Republic, Italy, Brazil and Sri Lanka.

In addition, the plane carried three crew members and six stewards, the spokesman said.

The Americans aboard the airliner were identified as Landry Thomas Slade, acting dean at the American University of Beirut, and his son William, 16.

Mr. Slade left Beirut a day after gunmen kidnapped Prof. Thomas Sutherland, 53, the university's dean of agriculture as he drove from Beirut airport through the city's southern suburbs.

Referring to the hijack, Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi condemned "all kinds of extremism."

Mr. Essebsi, who is with President Habib Bourguiba on a four-day visit to France, said Tunisia was "against all kinds of extremism, terrorism and fanaticism."

Sicilian authorities refueled the plane at Palermo after the hijackers threatened to kill several of the passengers, according to the Italian news agency ANSA.

Before landing in Sicily, the airliner had circled Tunis-Carthage airport where tanks had been driven across the runway and sharpshooters had taken up positions.

UNIFIL hostage talks remain stalemated

BEIRUT (R) — Diplomatic efforts to free 21 Finnish U.N. soldiers held for five days by Israeli-backed militiamen in South Lebanon remained deadlocked Tuesday, a U.N. spokesman said.

"There is no change, there are no negotiations on the ground today," Timur Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), told Reuters.

The pro-Israeli "South Lebanese Army" (SLA), which seized the Finns on Friday, says it will not release them until the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia frees 11 SLA men it is holding after they surrendered their weapons to a UNIFIL checkpoint.

Security sources in the south said the SLA had refused to let International Red Cross officials visit the Finns, being held at SLA headquarters at Marjayoun. It also refused to let members of a U.N. observer force deliver supplies directly to them, Goksel said.

He said he had no idea when UNIFIL would complete an internal inquiry into Israeli allegations that Finnish soldiers acted improperly by handing the SLA men over to Amal. The Finnish Defence Ministry says the charges are groundless.

The stand-off over the hostages is part of an SLA-Amal struggle for control of the "security zone" set up by Israel on the Lebanese side of the international border.

Israel said Tuesday it had pulled out its last troops from Lebanon, but was leaving behind military advisers and plainclothes agents.

But Lebanese army sources said the Israelis had set up a new command post at Hasbaya in the eastern sector, "indicating that there was no real withdrawal as declared yesterday."

They said Israeli troops were still deployed in the three other places in same area — the Yohmor-Zalaya road, on a hill northeast of Zalaya and north of a bridge on the Hasbani river.

SLA flees mosques, page 2

Heavy Amal-PSP clashes break out in west Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Differences between Lebanon's two major factions over the three-week-old siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut came out into the open Tuesday when heavy street battles broke out between them in west Beirut.

Fierce machine-gun and rocket fire still raged sporadically three hours later after militiamen of the Shi'ite Amal movement clashed with fighters of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), and a Reuters dispatch said army officers were meeting militia representatives to try to halt the fighting.

Amal men, supported by units of the army's Sixth Brigade, continued their assaults on the Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila refugee camps and, according to police counts, the death toll in three weeks of fighting rose to 555 on Tuesday.

Renewed violence also flared on Beirut's "green line", where Amal and PSP militiamen fought running battles with gunmen of the mostly Christian Falangist "Lebanese Forces."

The "Voice of the Homeland" radio station said the clash began when Amal fighters tried to search a car-load of PSP militiamen entering the grounds of the Lebanese University's law faculty beside the prime minister's office.

A sniper wounded a soldier assigned to guard a PSP official at an office block housing the offices of Reuters news agency. There were no other immediate reports of casualties.

PSP radio said Amal leader Nabih Berri met PSP officials earlier Tuesday to discuss Syria's latest media efforts in Lebanese affairs and "to take practical measures to reassert the alliance between Amal and the PSP."

The assault by Amal forces on the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut has strained the Amal-PSP alliance.

Palestinian gunmen have shelled high above Beirut. The PSP has protected Palestinians in the city and taken in wounded from the camps.

The Amal men launched their assault on the camps on May 19 to try to stop what they describe as a revival of Palestinian strength in west Beirut and South Lebanon.

At least 40 Palestinian fighters broke through an Amal cordon Monday to reinforce a Palestinian position in Shatila, according to Palestinian and eyewitness accounts reported by Reuters.

Abu Ahmad, an official of the Palestine "national salvation front" said 52 Palestinians, disguised as Amal fighters, managed to enter the camps.

(Continued on page 3)

Fahd favours special summit

RIYADH (Agencies) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has expressed his willingness to participate in any Arab meeting that serves the Palestinian cause and that brings an immediate end to the fighting in Lebanon, Minister of Information Ali Al Shaer said Tuesday.

King Fahd, addressing a cabinet session Monday night, stressed his country's concern over the safety of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Mr. Shaer said.

Mr. Shaer said that the cabinet was briefed by Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal on the results of an urgent session of the Arab League council meeting that concluded in Tunis Sunday.

The AP quoted well-informed sources in Tunis as saying eight Arab League nations and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), answering a call from Morocco, have agreed to hold a summit meeting in Morocco to discuss the Arab situation.

Arafat calls for Libyan action to end attacks

BEIRUT (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat has called for a Libyan initiative to try to end attacks by Shi'ite Muslim forces on Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

The official Libyan news agency JANA said the call came in a cable Mr. Arafat sent to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on the 15th anniversary of the closure of U.S. military bases in Libya.

"We look forward to your initiative to stop this drain involving our people and camps," JANA quoted Mr. Arafat as saying.

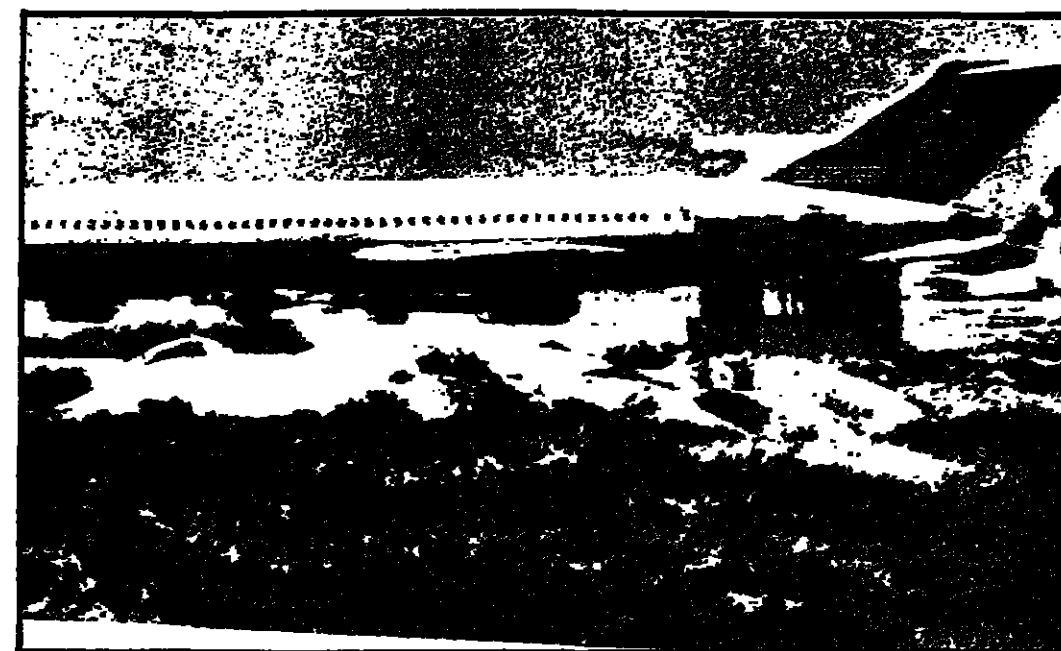
"Shipments of arms and ammunition are going to the (Shi'ite) Amal movement for further destruction of our people and camps and to disarm our revolutionaries," Mr. Arafat said.

The attacks on the camps, now in its fourth week, has led to better relations between the PLO and Libya, which had previously backed hardline Palestinian factions opposed to Mr. Arafat's leadership.

Meanwhile, Mr. Arafat arrived in Algiers Tuesday for talks with Algerian officials, the Algerian news agency APS reported.

Mr. Arafat arrived from Tunis where he attended an Arab League emergency ministerial meeting at the weekend, devoted to the three-week-old attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

He said in an airport statement that the current Beirut fighting was part of a plot aimed at "Balkanizing" the whole Arab region.



A hijacked Boeing 727 of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, takes off from Larnaca, Cyprus, after it was hijacked at Beirut (AP wirephoto)

PLO leaders reject Peres plan

By Sa'ad G. Hattar with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan Tuesday withheld comment on and senior Palestinian leaders' reaction ranged from outright rejection to cool response to an Israeli plan which envisages Middle East peace talks within three months but excludes the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) from the talks and rules out an international conference on the Middle East.

Jordanian government officials contacted by the Jordan Times refused any comment on the plan, announced by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres in a speech to his parliament on Monday. But senior PLO leaders, including Executive Committee member Mohammad Milhem and Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Saeed, rejected the proposal outright, saying that it was an Israeli "propaganda stunt" and did not offer "anything new."

"The proposal highlighted one point," said Mr. Milhem, "and that is a reaffirmation that there is no difference between the Likud and Labour parties."

"(Labour party leader) Peres and (Likud bloc chief and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak) Shamir are two sides of a coin," he said.

"The proposal underlines the Israeli stand that it will not withdraw from any occupied territories," Mr. Milhem said. "Force is the only language that the Israelis understand," he said. "Had the Israelis wanted genuine peace, they would not have excluded the PLO from peace talks, direct or otherwise," he added.

Mr. Milhem reiterated the PLO's rejection of any direct Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli talks as envisaged in Mr. Peres' proposal and said an international conference on the Middle East was the only forum which could produce a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem.

Sheikh Saeb and Nabil Amro, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's spokesman in Amman, said the Israeli proposal was "against all points and principles contained in the Feb. 11 agreement" between Jordan and the PLO.

The Jordan-PLO agreement calls for peace talks through an international conference. Sheikh Saeb pointed out and said: "since the Israeli plan calls for direct peace talks, the initiative cannot be accepted at all."

"Furthermore," the PNC speaker said, "Israel is also trying to ignore the fact that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people by calling for representatives from the West Bank and Gaza Strip for peace talks."

The Israeli proposal is aimed at "splitting the Palestinian ranks" (Continued on page 3)

King pledges continued efforts for peace, progress

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent cables in reply to cables sent to him by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on the occasion of the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day, which were celebrated Monday.

In his cable to the Regent, the King pledged to continue his struggle for a better future for the Arab Nation, a better life for the Jordanian people and a just and durable peace in the region.

In his cable to the prime minister, the King conveyed his "congratulations to the Jordanian family and the members of the Armed Forces," the symbol of courage and refined military deeds, who, with their honour, loyalty and devotion, continue to fly the Arab banner high in defence of Arab causes.

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(Continued on page 3)

Baghdad reports continuing air raids

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq said Tuesday it sent its warplanes to mount "punitive" raids on the Iranian capital, Tehran, three Iranian border cities and two army camps, a military spokesman said.

The raids, which came a day after Iran said it lobbed a long-range surface-to-surface missile into the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, were meant to "punish the leaders of the aggression in Iran," the spokesman said.

The spokesman told the state radio the raiding Iraqi jets dealt "devastating blows" to Tehran, Qazvin, Abadan and Erquaz, as well as the army camps of Rebat and Saradash between 8 a.m. (0400 GMT) and 9 a.m. (0500 GMT).

The aircraft, the spokesman said, "scored direct and effective hits on their targets."

Iran reported that three Iraqi warplanes raided Tehran Tuesday, but said were unable to bomb the capital.

Iran confirmed only the raid on Tehran.

Al-Thawra, organ of Iraq's ruling Baath Party, said Tuesday Iraqi air and missile attacks deep into Iran would continue.

They were "not a temporary or circumstantial phenomenon, but a lasting, continuing and ever growing event which will not stop until Iran responds to a comprehensive and just peace," it said.

Josef Mengele is dead, son announces in Munich

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — Josef Mengele, the most wanted Nazi war criminal still unaccounted for, died near Sao Paulo, Brazil, over six years ago, his son announced Tuesday.

Breaking his silence for the first time on the fate of the man once known to Auschwitz death-camp inmates as "the angel of death," Rolf Mengele said in a statement to Reuters:

"I have no doubt that the body recovered in the graveyard at Embu, Brazil, on June 6, 1985, is the remains of my father Josef Mengele."

"I am sure that forensic tests will confirm this shortly," the statement said.

It was handed over by Jens Hackenjos, step-brother of Rolf Mengele, at a small apartment in central Munich.

Rolf Mengele said he had delivered a declaration to the public prosecutor and regional court in Frankfurt on behalf of himself and in the name of his family.

The Frankfurt public prosecutor's office is in charge of the hunt for Mengele.

"I myself went to the place (in Brazil) in 1979 to personally confirm the circumstances of his death," the statement continued.

On June 6, a 40-year hunt for the concentration-camp physician intensified when Brazilian police dug up bones they believed to be of Mengele.

The grave was that of a man said to have died in a swimming accident in 1979 who was buried as Wolfgang Gerhard.

Police in Sao Paulo said the real Wolfgang Gerhard had been found dead beside his car in Austria six months before the burial of the man interred under his name.

INSIDE

- * Civil rights groups accuse Israel of violating human rights, page 2
- * C. net approves reduces rental charges at Zarqa Free Zone, page 3
- * More than one colour on the Israeli political scene, page 4
- * Palestinian theatre mixes politics with art, page 5
- * Badminton enters Olympic arena, page 6
- * Financial squeezes hit Jordanian banks, page 7
- * Soviets attack Reagan's SALT II announcement, page 8

SLA flexes muscles by detaining UNIFIL troops

By Earleen Tatro
Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The South Lebanon Army (SLA), beset by defections and hard-pressed to assert authority as its Israeli protectors withdrew from Lebanon, has flexed its muscles by taking 21 Finnish U.N. soldiers hostage.

Friction between the Israeli-backed militia and the U.N. peacekeeping force in South Lebanon has been building for months. The capture of the Finns on Friday was seen by some observers as a culmination of the militia's attempt to win recognition.

The militia has said it will free the Finns if 11 militia members they claim are held by the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia are returned. The South Lebanon Army (SLA) is not recognised by the Syrian-influenced Lebanese government in Beirut. Like the scores of other militias who span the Lebanese religious and political spectrum, the SLA's power is based on what it or its foreign backer can carve out of the local scene.

The U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), to which the detained Finns belong, has long maintained that since it serves in Lebanon at the request of the Lebanese government, it cannot recognise or permit free military operations by a group which operates without the government's authority.

"UNIFIL is not a state that can grant or withhold recognition. Recognition is a function of the state of Lebanon," U.N. spokesman Timor Goksel said in a telephone interview. "We maintain liaison with everyone who might affect our work, including the South Lebanon Army."

He said that UNIFIL liaison officers have been assigned to talk to the militia since it was created in 1978 under the name of the "Free

Lebanon Army". Israel has trained and supported the SLA, providing advisers, weapons, rations and uniforms. This has led some observers to believe that sufficient pressure from Israel would win the release of the hostages.

"It is no secret that Israel could wield considerable influence on that force that she has established and has been actively supporting," said a UNIFIL official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

NEWS ANALYSIS

However, the Israeli government has sought to portray the militia as an independent force. "Israel is not in control of the SLA," Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a news conference on Sunday. "We back them, we help them, but their fate should be decided by them. If tomorrow they decide to disappear, we cannot impose on them to stay where they are."

The militia commander, retired Lebanese army Gen. Antoine Lahd, came to the Israeli border fence on Saturday to tell reporters that the detention of the Finnish soldiers "is not an Israeli matter. This question strictly concerns the SLA."

By capturing the Finnish soldiers, the SLA resorted to a traditional Lebanese method of commanding attention. The ability to kidnap or kill real and potential rivals in Lebanon can be as effective as massive firepower.

Despite Israeli efforts to mold it into a disciplined force, the SLA

remains a mixture of professional military men and local villagers of varying abilities and motivations. The Israelis estimate the strength of the Falangist commanded SLA at 2,000 men.

Of these, about 400 are dedicated professionals, mostly Falangists. The rest, both Christians and Muslims, range from undisciplined adventurers to out-of-work farmers to villagers who want to protect their homes from rival gunmen.

The friction between UNIFIL and the SLA stems from their overlapping areas of deployment.

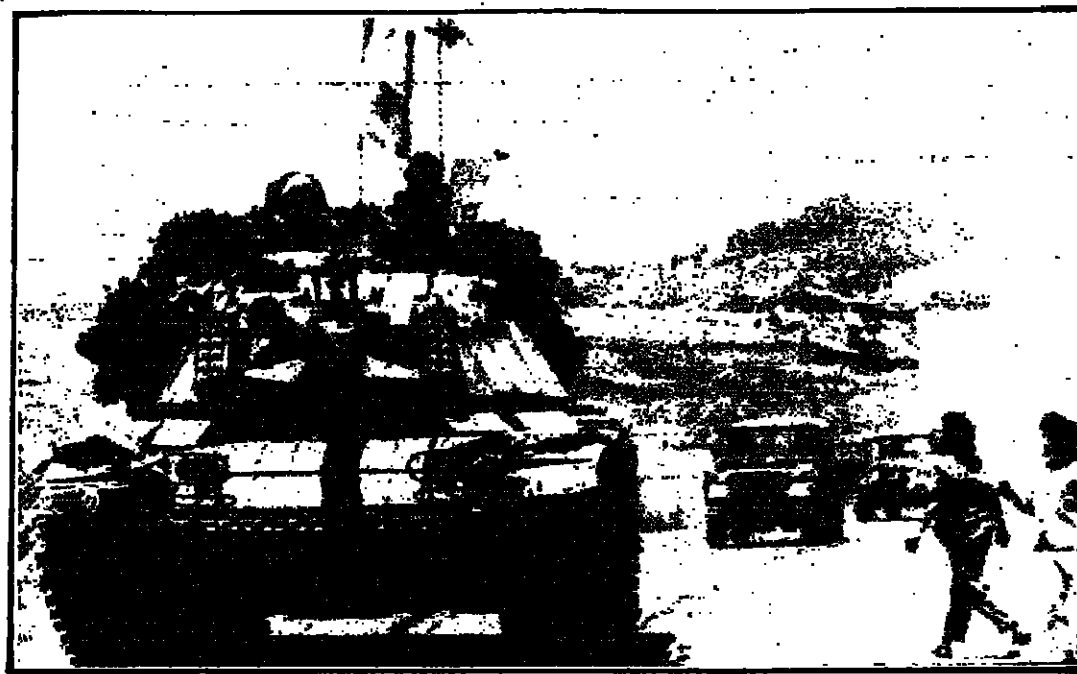
The U.N. peacekeepers, with a current strength of 5,700 soldiers from 10 nations, were sent to South Lebanon after the first Israeli invasion in 1978 with a mandate to deploy all the way to international border.

They did not reach the border because the Israeli-backed free militia operated in a border strip no more than nine kilometres wide.

After the 1982 Israeli invasion, Israel helped the militia establish positions as far as 30 kilometres from its old enclave, often in hostile opposition areas.

Clinton Bailey, a Tel Aviv University lecturer who advises the Defence Ministry on Shi'ites, said Monday that he thought Amal could protect the Israeli border better than Lahd and his South Lebanon Army because it has the support of the local people.

Speaking on Israel Army Radio, he said that Israelis must decide if they want security or they want Lahd, because the two don't go together.



FORCED DEPARTURE: One of the latest Israeli tanks to leave South Lebanon driving back into a safer place in Israel on Monday. It was three years and four days since Israel invaded Lebanon and the direction the tanks are taking tell the difference (AP wirephoto)

Sudanese rebels kill 150 people in raid

CAIRO (Agencies) — Rebels in southern Sudan have killed 150 people in a raid in southern Kordofan province, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) has reported.

Quoting a statement by Sudanese Radio Omdurman, it said the raiders were driven off by government troops, and both sides suffered casualties in the ensuing gun battle.

It was not clear whether the raiders were rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The official media in Sudan often refer to members of the 15,000-strong rebel force fighting in the south as outlaws. MENA said the raid was on the village of Al Gardoud, near Kadugli in Kordofan province, but did not say when it occurred.

Rebels from the mainly Christian and animist south have been fighting government troops since 1983 when President Jaafar Numeiri, ousted by a military coup last April 6, carved up the autonomous south region into three areas and clamped strict Islamic Law (Sharia) on the country. Sudan's new military rulers have failed in efforts to persuade SPLA leader John Garang to start negotiations.

The report said rebels in large numbers "crossed from the Upper Nile region, besieged the village and opened fire on unarmed citizens, including women and children."

It said the rebels also captured 4,000 heads of cattle before government troops fought them off, inflicting "heavy casualties" and forcing them to flee southward.

The leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army Col. John Garang, has rejected any compromise with the military regime of Gen. Abdul Rahman Swaraddhab until power was transferred to civilians.

Body of Israeli soldier found near Gaza Strip

TEL AVIV (R) — The body of an Israeli reservist has been found near the occupied Gaza Strip and police said Tuesday they were investigating whether Palestinian commandos had murdered him.

The body of 45-year-old David Palzan was found Monday outside an Israeli farming community, five kilometres from the Gaza Strip. The killing touched off calls from Jewish settlers in the Gaza

Strip for the expulsion of 600 Arab commandos released there and in the occupied West Bank as part of an Israeli-Palestinian prisoner exchange on May 20. Anti-Israeli activities, including an attempt to blow up Israeli military headquarters and a grenade attack on a military patrol, have been on the rise recently in Gaza. Israel captured the area, home to 500,000 Palestinians, in the 1967 Middle East war.

Syrian diplomat agrees to hand over London flat

LONDON (R) — A Syrian diplomat involved in a tenancy row has agreed to quit his London apartment after Queen Elizabeth intervened in the case and the British government threatened to expel him, his solicitors have said.

They said Ahmad Walid Rajab, a counsellor at the Syrian embassy, would meet the Friday deadline given by the Foreign Office and move out of the flat.

Rajab, claiming diplomatic immunity, had defied a court order to leave the three-bedroom West London apartment which he rented for six months in 1982.

The Foreign Office stepped in after the British couple who own

the flat wrote to the Queen asking for help.

The Foreign Office said it summoned the Syrian ambassador to complain about Rajab's behaviour. The envoy was told that unless Rajab came to an agreement or vacated the flat by Friday, Britain would demand his withdrawal from the country.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Rajab's conduct was regarded as an abuse of diplomatic immunity.

Britain has promised to take tough action against those who fail to respect diplomatic privilege since a policeman was killed here last year by shots fired from the Libyan embassy.

Food piling up in Sudanese, Ethiopian ports, official says

WASHINGTON (R) — Nearly half a million tonnes of food meant for famine victims is backed up in ports in Ethiopia and Sudan and more starvation and spoilage are threatened if it is not moved, a U.S. official has said.

Peter McPherson, head of the Agency for International Development (AID), said 1,500 additional lorries were needed for moving 220,000 tonnes of food at three ports in Ethiopia.

He said Ethiopia had increased shipments of food from the ports to regional warehouses to 3,000

tonnes a day, up from 1,500 to 2,000 tonnes.

But he said the government could move 4,000 tonnes a day, adding: "They have the capacity to respond right now."

In Sudan, Mr. McPherson said, 272,000 tonnes of food was backed up in Port Sudan. He said there was a bottleneck in a rail line to the west of the country from Kosti and warned that new starvation could result if the problem were not solved.

In Ethiopia, he said, the most food-choked port was Assab,

Civil rights group accuses Israel of violating human rights

TEL AVIV (AP) — A private civil rights group has accused Israel of human rights violations, including firing tear gas in prisons and detaining travellers for interrogations.

A 40-page annual report by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel also criticised Israeli authorities in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for failing to allow Palestinians tried by military courts to appeal their sentences.

The association has more than 800 members, including prominent jurists such as former supreme court justice Chaim Cohen. It is financed by private donations and grants from the U.S. Ford Foundation and the American Jewish Committee.

On May 13, the government's chief monitor, the State Comptroller, issued criticism of unjustified arrests and prison overcrowding.

The civil rights report included the results of an internal prison investigation into complaints of tear gas use that found that about one fourth of the complaints were justified or partly justified.

But in a memorandum to the human rights group dated March 5 — a copy of which was made available to the Associated Press —

the Israel Prison Authority justified most cases of tear-gas use, saying that in general its use in jails was in accordance with the authority's instructions.

The head of the Civil Rights Association, Amette Honhstein, said in an interview that the prison authority has refused to publish its criteria.

Prison authority spokesman Shimon Malka was not at his office or his home for comment.

The report said the prison authority and police were investigating three instances of tear-gas use which they found irregular. It did not go into further detail.

Another section of the report lashes out at searches and temporary confiscation of documents from some people leaving or arriving in Israel.

The report does not give figures, but some tourists and returning West Bank residents are often searched at the airport, the report said.

This practice is carried out in accordance with 1945 emergency regulations aimed at safeguarding the country's security, the report notes. The same regulations apply to censorship of the Israeli and foreign news media reports relating to defence-related matters.

Israeli train slams into bus killing 22 children

HAIFA (R) — A train slammed into a bus carrying schoolchildren Tuesday at an unguarded railway crossing, killing at least 22 and injuring 17 in one of the worst accidents in Israel, rescue workers at the scene said.

The train, travelling at 100 kilometres per hour, demolished the rear section of the bus and threw the vehicle 50 metres from the crossing, a spokesman for Israel Railroad said.

"It was a horrific sight, a terrible tragedy," the spokesman said. Army helicopters ferried casualties to four hospitals in northern Israel but many were dead on arrival.

The accident occurred near Moshav Habanin, a small farming community about 30 kilometres south of Haifa.

The bus was one of three carrying children from a religious school to an outing on a Mediterranean beach.

One witness said the train started breaking and blowing its whistle 400 metres before the crossing over a dirt road. But it could not stop in time.

The Israel Railroad spokesman said that at 100 kilometres per hour the train needed 800 metres to come to a complete stop.

At the scene, rescue workers said 22 people were dead and 17 injured. A spokesman for Magen David, Israel's First-Aid agency, said the death toll was at least 20.

The railway spokesman said it appeared the bus driver either did

not see the train or else the vehicle stalled on the crossing, which had no barrier or warning lights.

"The bus stopped in front of the crossing and then the train whistled," another witness said. "Then the driver decided to go ahead... very, very slowly as if he had enough time to cross before the train got there."

"Bodies were strewn all over the area. There was nothing left inside the bus," he said.

Israel Radio repeatedly announced that all casualties were from one class of 12 and 13-year-old children from the Brenner School in Petah Tikva, outside Tel Aviv.

Distraught parents rushed to the school for news of their children. Several hours after the morning accident, the radio still had not announced an official death toll in order to give officials time to notify next of kin.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres visited injured children at Haifa's Rambam Hospital and said, "we cry over this terrible tragedy."

"Children are the most precious possession we have. The heart breaks to see those who were plucked (from us) at the very start of their lives," the somber-faced prime minister said after pausing at the bedside of an unconscious, curly-haired girl.

The director of Rambam Hospital, Dr. Yosef Brandes, said 16 people on the bus were injured and one soldier on the train.

Evren begins state visit to Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — Turkish President Kenan Evren began a state visit to Romania Tuesday aimed at closer economic ties between the two countries.

Diplomats expected the visit to include talks between Gen. Evren and Romania's Communist leader and head of state Nicolae Ceausescu on Turkish objections to Romanian proposals for making the Balkans a nuclear-free zone.

The official Agence France Press said Mr. Ceausescu met Gen. Evren at Otopeni Airport. It was Gen. Evren's second visit there since he took power in a military coup in 1980, and returned a visit to Ankara by Mr. Ceausescu in 1983.

In February Mr. Ceausescu said he had sent a deputy minister to Ankara to discuss the objections of Turkey, a NATO member, to a

Balkan denuclearisation plan.

Turkey told a meeting on the issue in 1983, amended also by Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Greece, that the Balkan area was too small to denuclearise.

Turkey and its NATO neighbour Greece are the only two countries in the area where nuclear weapons are known to be stored.

Cyprus: 60,000 Turkish settlers live in north

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Cyprus has charged that between 60,000 and 65,000 settlers from Turkey were living in the Turkish-occupied part of the island, where a breakaway Turkish-Cypriot state was proclaimed in November 1983.

"It is clear from Turkish-Cypriot published sources that there has been a massive influx of Turkish Anatolian settlers, altering the demographic composition of the occupied area,"

Cypriot U.N. Charge d'Affaires Phedon Phedonos-Vadett said in a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"From official Turkish-Cypriot sources it appears that there are in 1985 between 60,000 and 65,000 settlers in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus."

He quoted Turkish-Cypriot newspapers as complaining that settlers' votes played a very important role in a May 5 referendum that overwhelmingly supported a

new constitution because half of the Turkish-Cypriots either cast negative votes or abstained.

Phedonos-Vadett said in an era when the last remnants of colonialism were rapidly disappearing, the government of Turkey implements in Cyprus a policy of colonialism.

He said it was vital that U.N. resolutions on Cyprus be observed and that foreign settlers in the island "return to their homeland, Turkey."

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19	23:45 Evening Show Continued 23:57 News Headlines 24:00 Close Down
MAIN CHANNEL	
15:00 Koran	
15:30 Cartoons	
15:45 Children Programmes	
16:00 Religious Programme	
16:15 News Programme	
16:30 Arabic Series	
16:45 Religious Programme	
16:55 Arabic Series	
17:00 News in Arabic	
17:15 Programme Review	
17:30 Arabic Series	
17:45 News in Arabic	
18:00 Religious Programme	
18:15 Religious Programme	
18:30 Religious Programme	
18:45 Religious Programme	
19:00 Religious Programme	
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23:30 Religious Programme	
23:45 Religious Programme	
23:57 Religious Programme	
24:00 Religious Programme	
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
18:00 French Programme	
18:15 French Programme	
18:30 French Programme	
18:45 French Programme	
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23:30 French Programme	
23:45 French Programme	
23:57 French Programme	
24:00 French Programme	
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW Tel: 774111-19	
07:00 Light Music	
07:30 Newsweek	
08:00 Morning Show	
08:30 News Summary	
09:00 Morning Show Cont.	
09:30 Pop Session	
10:00 News Summary	
10:30 Pop Session Cont.	
11:00 Pop Session	
11:30 News Summary	
12:00 Pop Session	
12:30 News Summary	
13:00 Pop Session	
13:30 News Bulletin	
14:00 News Bulletin	
14:30 News Bulletin	
15:00 The Young Sound	
15:30 Concert Hour	
16:00 News Summary	
16:30 Instruments	
16:45 The Young Sound	
17:00 News Summary	
17:30 News Summary	
18:00 News Summary	
18:30 Arab Music	
19:00 News Date	
19:30 Date with a Star	
20:00 Evening Show	
20:30 Evening Show Cont.	
21:00 News Summary	
21:30 Evening Show Cont.	
22:00 News Summary	
22:30 Evening Show Continued	
23:00 News Summary	

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
FILM	
"The Circus" at 5:00 p.m. at the American Centre.	
VIDEO	
"Video Music" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre - Tel: 6610267	
American Centre 644371	
British Council 641520	
French Cultural Centre 6361478	
Goethe Institute 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203	
Spanish Cultural Centre 634049	
Turkish Cultural Centre 637777	
Haya Arts Centre 665195	
Husseini Youth City 667181/6	
Y.W.C.A. 664193	
Amman Municipal Library 637111	
University of Jordan Library 843555	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel: 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Lewehdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630128.	
Museum of Islamic (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel: 664240.	
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lewehdeh, 637440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 623541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 623583.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 772521.	
St. Barbara Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.	
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 816534.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811225.	
PRAYER TIMES	
6:47 (Sunrise) Doha	
12:38 Doha	
16:17 Ast	
19:44 Maghreb	
21:24 Isha	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia International Airport at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (06) 82200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:15	Larnaca (RJ)	22:10	Baghdad (RJ)
06:30	Cairo (MS)	22:15	Jeddah (RJ)
07:25	London, Larnaca (BA)	21:30	Dubai (RJ)
08:20	Karachi (PK)	22:00	Sana'a (Y)
08:25	Jeddah (RJ)	00:30	Rio, Lisbon (IA)
08:30	Aqaba (RJ)		
08:30	Kuwait (RJ)		
08:35	Sana'a (Y)		
10:35	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)		
10:45	Cairo (RJ)		
10:45	Jeddah (RJ)		
10:50	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)		
11:00	Beirut (RJ, MEA)		
11:00	Dhahran (RJ)		
11:15	Bahrain (RJ)		
11:25	Kuwait (RJ)		
11:30	Jeddah (RJ)		
11:35	Baghdad (RJ)		
11:40	Dhahran (RJ)		
11:45	Paris, Damascus (AF)		
11:50	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)		
12:00	London, Paris (RJ)		
12:05	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)		
12:10	Bangkok (RJ)		
12:15	Rome (RJ)		
12:20	Istanbul (RJ)		
12:25	Belgrade (RJ)		
12:30	Frankfurt (LH)		
12:35	Cairo, Damascus (Y)		
12:40	Baghdad (RJ)		
12:45	Baghdad (RJ)		

DEPARTURES

07:15	Beirut (RJ, MEA)
07:20	Cairo (MS)
07:35	Istanbul, Amsterdam (KLM)
08:00	Aqaba (RJ)
08:20	Larnaca, London (BA)
08:25	Athens, Rome (AL)
08:30	Damascus, Rome (AZ)
13:00	London (RJ)
13:10	Larnaca, Zurich (SV)
13:30	Larnaca (RJ)
13:40	Istanbul (RJ)
14:30	Cairo (RJ)
15:30	Doha, Muscat (GF)
15:35	Kuwait (RJ)
15:40	Jeddah (RJ)
16:30	Baghdad (RJ)
16:30	Kuwait (RJ)
16:40	Dhahran (RJ)
20:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00	Cairo (RJ)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Jifar
— Rakhov
— Tian
— Kompozitor Glinka

Amin Kewar and Sons Company, Tel: 622324-9 at your service.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A slight increase in temperature is expected with northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C

Amman	17/23
Aqaba	25/39
Deserts	19/38
Jordan Valley	21/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31.6, Aqaba 38.3. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 16 per cent.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

Local sell-off rates in fitts

Dutch guilder	115.2/ 116.1
English guinea	282.6/ 288.8
French franc	42.6/ 42.9
Irani riyal	367.6/ 394
Japanese yen (for 100)	160.4/ 161.1
Kuwaiti dirham	1320.6/ 1327.6
Lebanese lira	26.1/ 27
Omani rial	1153.3/ 1161.6
Qatari riyal	106.2/ 110
Saudi riyal	110.5/ 111.5
Swedish crown	45.1/ 45.5
Swiss franc	154/ 155.2
Syrian liira	35.6/ 36.5
UAE dirham	108.9/ 109.8
U.K. sterling pound	507.4/ 511.5
U.S. dollar	402.9/ 403
W. German mark	129.8/ 130.8

RSS to provide technical assistance to local firms

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Tuesday signed three agreements with local manufacturers which will utilise RSS technological expertise in their projects.

The first agreement was signed with the Arab Aluminium Company (ARAL) according to which the Department of Industrial Chemistry at the RSS will design a plant for the processing of ARAL's liquid and solid cyanide waste products.

The proposed plant will extract the cyanide to produce cyanide-free water in accordance with Jordan's standards pertaining to wastewater. The company and the RSS envisage that the processing plant could also be used for the processing of other industrial waste matter. The plant is expected to be commissioned within eight months.

The agreement was signed by RSS President Fakhraddin Daghestani and ARAL Director General Fuad Ayoub.

The second agreement was signed with both the Jordanian Iron and Steel Manufacturing Company and the National Steel Company.

According to the agreement, the RSS will conduct laboratory tests on the raw materials used by the two companies and on their products to ensure the suitability of imported raw materials used for manufacturing.

The agreement was signed by the RSS president and Mr. Riyad Al Miftih on behalf of the two companies.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent Tuesday receives the visiting Australian parliamentarians and briefs them on recent developments in the region and Mideast peace efforts (Petra photo)

Cabinet approves lower rents in free trade zones to encourage investment

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Cabinet Tuesday approved the lowering of rents for the use of land in the Zarqa Free Zone area as well as decreasing the rent for land and refrigerated storage premises in the Aqaba Free Zone.

According to Free Trade Zones Corporation (FTZC) Director General Yassin Al Kayed, the new annual rent for land and premises in both Zarqa and Aqaba are as follows in Jordanian fils per each square metre:

Land and premises	Current rent	New rent Endorsed by the Cabinet
Unpaved land	500	400
Paved land	1,000	750
Paved land with asphalt	1,250	1,000
Asphalted land	1,500	1,250
Asphalted land with car exhibition area	2,000	1,750
Metal stores	16,000	13,000
Cement ware houses, stores and offices	30,000	25,000

The daily rents for refrigerated storage premises are as follows in Jordanian fils per square metre:

Refrigerated storage Areas	Current rent	New rent Endorsed by Cabinet
Daily expenses per each tonne of refrigerated items	350	200
Daily expenses per each tonne of frozen meat	450	300
Tariff per each refrigerated square metre	350	200
Tariff per each square metre of deep freeze facilities	450	300

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Kayed said that all the storage premises in the Zarqa Free Zone phase one and not 2 are already rented and that all the Aqaba Free Zone premises are already rented whilst the refrigerated storage rentals at Aqaba depend on the daily arrival of goods.

"In general, all usable storage land is rented", Mr. Kayed said. He stressed that the lowering of the rental price, which was endorsed by the cabinet Tuesday, aims to encourage investors in various industrial and trade sectors and owners of car exhibitions to

increase their cooperation with the FTZC.

"This is a vital step which was initiated by the FTZC in order to remove all obstacles impeding the revival of free zones in the Kingdom", Mr. Kayed said.

Mr. Kayed was quoted by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, as saying: "The FTZC will hold continuous meetings with all those who have invested their money in the FTZC so that all obstacles are tackled".

Mr. Kayed called on all investors to submit their suggestions and their complaints in the context of mutual cooperation between the investors and FTZC.

Last week, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) board of directors passed new amendments covering foreign currency transfers concerning the cost of goods imported into the country, goods imported into free trade zones and transit goods. Mr. Kayed commented on the new amendments saying that they aim to facilitate the process of exports and imports through the free trade zones.

The FTZC has also circulated a decision Saturday on the provisions of the corporation's laws to director of the free zones and investors in all commercial and industrial investment sectors. Under the new decision, all profits of a project will be exempt from income tax and social services tax for a period of 12 years starting from the year of estimation, which follows the beginning of production of operating the commercial investment project.

The new decision states that all profits obtainable as a result of commercial storage of goods allocated for local consumption will be excluded from exemption.

Regent briefs Australian parliamentarians on Israeli practices, Feb. 11 accord

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent Tuesday received an Australian parliamentary delegation who are currently on a visit to Jordan as part of a regional fact-finding tour.

During the meeting the Regent and the delegation reviewed the humanistic and economic situation in the occupied Arab territories in light of Israeli practices which violate international norms and laws.

Prince Hassan explained Israel's plans to seize Arab land and to expel the lawful inhabitants with the aim of creating a new demographic situation in the occupied territories.

The Regent also briefed the parliamentarians on Israel's expansionist policies and Israel's relentless drive to control the whole region at the expense of the people in the area.

Prince Hassan also explained the dimensions of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and the importance of the accord for the establishment of just and durable peace in the Middle East based on United Nations resolutions.

The Regent also voiced Jordan's concern over world wide

problems and emphasised the necessity of confronting these problems in a way which will serve mankind's interest and which will also safeguard the rights of different peoples and nations.

The Australian parliamentary delegation comprises Mr. Leo McLeay and Mr. John Mountford, who are both members of the ruling Australian Labour Party, and they are expected to also visit Syria and Egypt on their tour.

The two-member team expressed their understanding of the Jordanian stand and their admiration for Jordan's moderate role on both the Arab and international levels.

The delegation also extended an invitation to His Majesty King Hussein and to Prince Hassan to visit Australia.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Ismael Hijazi and Australian Ambassador to Jordan Richard Gate.

Lawzi receives delegation

The delegation was also received Monday by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi who explained in detail the Palestinian problem which he described as "the problem of a people and its homeland which constitutes the core of the Middle East conflict".

Mr. Lawzi told the delegation that Jordanian-Palestinian efforts focus on the achievement of a just and durable peace based on international legitimacy and on the right of the Palestinian people to self determination.

Mr. Lawzi also explained to the delegation the inherent dangers of Arab lands, Israeli aggressive policies against inhabitants in the occupied territories and Israeli expansionist policies.

He highlighted the importance of the international community, in support of the peace process.

The delegation expressed support for His Majesty King Hussein's peace initiative and promised to convey the findings of their tour to Australian parliamentarians and the Australian public.

Court postpones bid date for ship, jute cargo in maritime fraud case as legal action continues

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Legal proceedings against a Panamanian-registered cargo vessel, stranded at Aqaba since December 1983, appeared to be heading for a long, drawn-out process Tuesday with the announcement by the Aqaba prosecutor-general's office that the opening dates for bids for the vessel and its cargo have been postponed until the end of this month.

Apparently, proper response from prospective buyers for the 11,000-ton deadweight Jowaki and its jute cargo has not been forthcoming and the authorities have also reduced the minimum bid amount for the vessel to JD 200,000 from JD 220,000. The opening date for bids was originally set for June 5, 1985, and according to Tuesday's announcement it has been postponed until June 26, 1985, and bids for the vessel's cargo will be opened on June 29.

The legal action against the ship, which docked at Aqaba on Dec. 18, 1983, en route from Chittagong, Bangladesh, to Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and Libya, was ordered by an Aqaba court. The court heard cases filed by the ship's 27 crewmen and their captain, who were seeking legal help to secure their outstanding wages, and the Aqaba Ports Corporation and shipping agents Amin Kavar and Sons who filed claims against the vessel's owners for outstanding port charges and cargo handling fees.

The Ports Corporation is demanding JD 53,000, representing port charges, and Amin Kavar and Sons is seeking JD 28,000 in cargo handling fees and agency charges.

After paying off the Ports Corporation and Amin Kavar and Sons from the proceeds that the vessel's sale is expected to raise, the court will hold the rest of the amount as well as proceeds raised from selling the cargo until the rightful owners produce evidence and claim the funds.

The Jowaki, its Geneva-based owners and the crewmen were the victim of an apparent maritime fraud staged by a now-defunct shipping charter company based in the United Arab Emirates.

The crewmen, however, managed to secure their due salaries following a court order to sell part of the vessel's cargo to raise funds for their claims. The last of the crewmen left Jordan last month after a 17-month ordeal aboard the ship.

Taking the waters of Jordan for relaxation, therapeutical purposes

By Elias Salameh

AMMAN — Although modern technology has helped lessen man's physical burden, it has inadvertently created sedentary habits that have had a negative effect on our physical and psychological condition. Refined and additive-filled foods, transportation conveniences and too many hours of desk-bound occupation are causing the body to weaken and lose its natural resistance. In such cases of environmentally induced malaise, treatment with thermal waters can often work wonders.

Many people, after "taking the waters", are remarkably restored in energy and report an integrated sense of well-being, in both body and spirit. Thermal waters are also used to help cure various diseases in many clinics, especially in Europe, and have often succeeded where modern medicine has failed.

In Jordan, the therapeutic value of thermal waters has been recognised since ancient times. According to biblical accounts, Herod the Great 2,000 years ago soaked his ailing body in Jordan's curative waters. Today, the same springs attract thousands of people from within the region and beyond. Some stay for as long as a week or two, camping near the springs and bathing daily in the waters.

By actual count, there are some 150 thermal springs in all, most located at several different sites along the Great Rift Valley that slices through the length of Jordan.



The water temperature of this spring in the Afra area reaches 55 degrees Centigrade.

Hot springs, which originate from the molten rock regions that lie deep beneath the earth's surface, derive their chemical content from the percolated passage of the water through successive layers of rock as it rises to the surface. Some of Jordan's rocks possess unique properties such as the metamorphosed oil shales in north Jordan, and the phosphate rocks in the south that contain trace elements in abundance of such minerals as uranium, zinc, barium and vanadium.

All of Jordan's thermal springs, except two, are classified as mineral, and as such are considered exceptional for curative purposes. Some of the waters are high in radioactivity and others high in hydrogen sulfide, iron, or iodine content.

The springs in Jordan most famous for their healing properties are Zarqa Ma'in/Zara and Hammeh. The former are located east of the Dead Sea, which at 300 metres below sea level is the lowest spot on earth and is also noted for its extremely high concentration of mineral salts. The Hammeh springs lie in the Jordan Valley to the north near Irbid.

Zarqa Ma'in/Zara

Located four kilometres east of the Dead Sea, the Zarqa Ma'in springs are nestled in a deep valley surrounded by wild and rocky terrain. There are 59 springs here. Some bubble out of the ground; others fall in cascades over the rocks high above and merge below with the Zarqa Ma'in River, a cold fresh water stream that snakes its way through the valley. The waters collect in a series of small and large pools that vary in temperature from the "so hot you could boil an egg" to the therapeutically tepid. Identified by scholars as the classical Callirhoe, it was here — and at nearby Zara — that Herod the Great used to take the cure.

To the west, in an adjoining valley and right on the shores of the Dead Sea, are the Zara springs — some 38 in all. At present, Zara is



Springs at Zara flow into the Dead Sea

inaccessible by car; but when the new highway running along the eastern shore of the Dead Sea is completed, visitors will be able to visit the site with ease. Among the remnants of Roman structures on the hills nearby are the ruins of Herod's palace at Mukawir (ancient Machaerus), where Salome danced and John the Baptist met his fate.

The Zarqa Ma'in and Zara springs are extremely hot (45 to 64 Centigrade) and also very high in mineral salt content. They contain a substantial amount of hydrogen sulfide, which emits into the surrounding atmosphere a distinctive odor, and some show low radioactivity. The water is used externally, and only in small doses internally, for restoration of energy, rheumatism, arthritis and other joint pains, chest and upper respiratory tract ailments, influenza, skin diseases and circulatory problems.

Lisan and Tafila

At two sites further south are found springs of lower temperature. Those in the valley near Lisan, at the southern end of the Dead Sea, reach no higher than 38 degrees Centigrade and cool down almost to surrounding water temperatures. The springs, which con-

tain carbon dioxide gas, are sometimes bubbling, and they also have large concentrations of iron and hydrogen sulfide. The water is used externally or in low doses internally for circulatory problems, constipation, urinary disease, rheumatism and other muscular pains, or as a diuretic. About 60 kilometres further south near Tafila, the thermal waters reach a temperature of about 50 degrees Centigrade, contain hydrogen sulfide and are high in radioactivity. Because of this, the water can only be used externally and is known to be helpful in cases of rheumatism, arthritis, muscular pains and skin allergies.

Jerash/Deir Alla

In the Jordan Valley north of the Dead Sea, the thermal springs that issue along the course of the Zarqa River are about 38 degrees Centigrade in temperature. Carbon Dioxide is discharged with the water, causing it to bubble constantly as it emerges. The iron concentration is high, and the waters can be used externally and internally in treating any of the physical ailments that the Lisan/Tafila springs are known to cure.

Azraq, Hammeh

In the eastern desert of Jordan,

at the oasis of Azraq, a thermal water source that was encountered while drilling for oil has a temperature at the surface of 39 degrees Centigrade. Containing hydrogen sulphide, it can be used externally and in moderate doses internally for arthritis, rheumatism, muscular cramps, respiratory problems and skin diseases.

Of the curative waters in Jordan's northern region, the best known are the thermal springs at Hammeh on the Yarmouk River. Here the water temperature is a low 33 degrees Centigrade (at another spring further south at Shuneh on the Yarmouk River, the temperature goes up to 57 degrees). Containing hydrogen sulphide, these waters are used externally and internally for a variety of ailments.

Two thousand years ago, Hammeh served as a health spa for the Romans. Like the many people who frequent the springs today, the ancients were lured by the lush green valley and its refreshing climate. Today, Hammeh is a popular weekend resort for many Jordanians seeking a quiet retreat, if not a cure for whatever ails them. — Reprinted from the Jordan Magazine Winter 1984/85 issue.

Amal-PSP clashes break out

(Continued from page 1)

to take weapons, ammunition and medicine into Shatila.

"This means Shatila will not be occupied in the near future as Amal expects," he added. The eyewitness said 40 Palestinians entered the camp, but three were arrested by Amal.

Abu Ahmad said the Palestinians had also gained ground in a counter-attack after Amal forces tried to advance in Bourj Al Barajneh camp.

Protracted negotiations in Damascus have not yet brought any agreement on how to end the battle for the camps.

Clashes on the "green line" div-

iding Beirut kept the main "museum" crossing shut for most of the day and prevented a planned attempt to open another road linking west Beirut with the mostly Christian east.

In the northern port of Tripoli, a shaky ceasefire took hold after six days of fighting between Tawheed and the ADF. The battles have killed 22 people and wounded 120.

After hosting a meeting of senior Syrian and Lebanese army officers and leaders of the rival factions, Prime Minister Rashid Karani said all parties had pledged to observe the terms of a peace agreement mediated by Syria last year.

More than one colour on the Israeli political scene

By Haim Baram

MOST ISRAELIS took in their stride the agreement between the Likud and the Labour party to join together in a so-called government of national unity after the July 1984 election. After all, few of them share the idea that the Labour party is even remotely social-democratic: this illusion is entertained almost exclusively by foreigners. Probably the best service that an Israeli writer can render is to clarify, even de-mystify, the real nature of Israel's political culture and replace pious wishful thinking with stark realism.

The conventional classification into parliamentary political parties is often misleading as the labels they bear have very little relevance. Moreover, most parties are internally divided, and foreign observers find it almost impossible to identify the various factions and personalities. Let alone discern correctly what they stand for, particularly as far as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is concerned.

The best way to achieve coherence and clarity is to divide the Israeli polity into five, purely analytical, categories. Political parties and important leading personalities will be classified, disregarding their formal affiliation. The decisive factor will be their position vis-à-vis the Palestinian problem. Other variables, such as attitudes to democracy, will also be taken into account, but to a lesser degree. The five categories are: the Masada Syndrome; the Fundamental Expansionists; the Pragmatic Expansionists; the Doves; the Peace Camp.

The Masada Syndrome category comprises political groups and individuals whose political outlook is predominantly fatalistic. Their attitude to the non-

Jewish outside world is usually hostile, even xenophobic. They regard the Arabs in general, and the Palestinians in particular, as their eternal enemies. For them, the nature of the Middle East conflict is of mutual exclusion. This ideological concept is racist by definition, and its adherents seek the expulsion of the Palestinians from the "Greater Israel" territory (namely, the entire Mandated Palestine). They tend to disregard the international constellation, world public opinion, the super-powers' interests, economic factors and humanitarian conventions. Most in this category, but not all, are orthodox. The 13 Knesset members (MKs) in this category include one from the Meir Kahane faction, five from the Tehiya Party and seven odd MKs from the Likud, Morasha (Heritage) and the National Religious Party. Sociological and economic processes in Israel will, almost certainly, strengthen this section, at the expense of the less extreme hawks and expansionists.

The Fundamental Expansionists adhere to the cause of "Greater Israel" ideologically, and for them the retention of the West Bank is a major article of faith. Their world view is only marginally more sophisticated than that of the Masada Syndrome. Their motivation is ideological, even mystical, but they are prepared to explain themselves to the outside world in seemingly rational terms. Some of them, like Menachem Begin or Yitzhak Shamir, have useful diplomatic experience. They took advantage of the worsening super-power relations since the advent of Ronald Reagan in 1980, and harnessed the White House and the Pentagon to their schemes with considerable skill. They excel in dressing their territorial ambi-

tions in security and "global" (cold-war type) arguments. For these people, the final annexation of the West Bank is an ideological goal, derived from several decades of Revisionist, or religious, Zionism. On the other hand, they recognise, at least to a certain degree, that some international support is indispensable, hence the need for diplomacy and propaganda. Most people in this category are secular Jews, with a strong sentiment for "tradition", and only the minority are practising orthodox Jews. This category comprises 36 Likud MKs, six Labour, three NRP, two Shas (Oriental religious), and one Morasha, totalling 48 MKs.

The Pragmatic Expansionists are, historically speaking, the most important political group, having controlled the entire range of Israel's policies between 1948-1977. This is now a significantly weakened category, a fact that explains the tremendous polarisation in the Israeli political arena in recent years. The groups and people in this category also strive for the retention of most of the occupied territories, but seldom speak openly about the notion of formal annexation. Most of them accept the possibility of a partial Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and some even espouse some form of agreement with Jordan which will rid Israel of the populated urban areas in the territories.

Their by-word is a "territorial compromise" with Jordan. They realise that their position is totally unacceptable both to the PLO and to Jordan, but they try to present their case sweetly and subtly. The Pragmatic Expansionists deeply appreciate Israel's dependence on the international community, especially the U.S. Therefore, they are more sensitive to world public

opinion because they understand the importance of their image in the fundamentally democratic friendly states. They are fully trained in the finest arts of Zionist propaganda. Their wars are always "defensive", their settlements "pioneering", their motivation "humanitarian" and they weep — out of self-pity — when the cruel circumstances force them to treat their Arab enemies harshly. Yet none of this deters them from insisting on the annexation of East Jerusalem, in addition to 60 per cent of the West Bank.

This group comprises 68 Labour MKs, two Oriental Orthodox MKs, an independent (minister without Portfolio) Yigal Horvitz, and two Shinui MKs (including Minister of Communications Amnon Rubinstein). These 33 MKs supported at least the initial steps of the war in Lebanon in June 1982.

The Doves oppose the policies of the Israeli establishment from a strictly Zionist point of view. They reject much of the settlement policy in the West Bank, and most of them objected to the war in Lebanon, but not always with the necessary courage and determination. They are vociferously concerned about the brutalisation of Israeli society as a direct consequence of the long occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. They normally welcome moderate Arab peace initiatives. Their main contribution is confined to opposing overt measures of oppression, such as the harsh treatment of the indigenous population, arrests, deportations, closure of newspapers. Again, they vary in their reactions, and their reliability in these matters is not always assured.

Their main flaw is tremendous

vulnerability to the questioning of their patriotism; hence their almost routine silence in most crucial moments of real crises. They share many of the Pragmatic Expansionists' moral and political characteristics, and charges of hypocrisy against them are often justified. Until recently, most of them opposed contacts with the PLO, or avoided them through sheer cowardice or internal politics. They lack a concrete, coherent peace plan, and espouse the unity of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This group includes five Labour MKs, five Mapam, two MKs from the Civil Rights Movement, and one from Shinui. It is important to stress that the mobility between this group and the Peace Camp category is a one-way route towards a more positive concept of peace and reconciliation with the Palestinian people.

The Peace Camp advocates an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, and strives for formal negotiations between the Israeli government and the PLO. They support the Palestinians' right to self-determination, and consider the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel as the best possible solution to the Middle East conflict. This group — or more precisely, the various groups in this category — also espouses the return of the Golan Heights to Syria, in the interests of peace. Most people in this category maintain contacts with the PLO, in order to legitimise negotiations with the only recognised representatives of the Palestinian people. This category comprises the four Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (predominantly Communist)

MKs, the two from the Progressive List for Peace, two from the CRM, and two Arab MKs, one from the Labour party and the other from Mapam. The total strength of the Peace Camp in the Knesset amounts to ten members, not a negligible force in a divided parliament, even under the pretence of "national unity".

The overall picture is grim. Thirteen MKs are very radical right-wingers (the Masada Syndrome), 48 are Fundamental Expansionists, 33 are Pragmatic Expansionists, 13 are Doves, and 10 belong to the most outspoken Peace Camp. One MK, Aharon Abuhazzeir of Tami, has not expressed his political ideas for a very long time. The remaining two are the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Israel, MKs who are not overwhelmingly interested in the Middle East conflict. They constitute a non-Zionist faction, but would vote for anyone who would provide them with the vital funds for their very complex network of religious schools and charities.

It is vital to remember the dynamics of the situation. The mobility is from the centre towards the extreme poles. Of the main extra-parliamentary movements, the settler movement Gush Emunim belongs, of course, to the Masada Syndrome, and most peace now activists are Doves. The minority in Peace Now and all the radical peace groups (the Committee for Solidarity with Bir Zeit University, the Committee Against the War in Lebanon, and Yesh Gvul) are part and parcel of the committed Peace Camp.

Haim Baram is an Israeli writer and journalist. The above article is reprinted from Middle East International, London.

Keep throwing

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Shimon Peres' five-point Middle East peace proposals are interesting not so much for what they contain, but rather for the simple fact of having been offered. Obviously, peace proposals by either the Arabs or the Israelis will not be totally acceptable to the other side, but will have to form the basis of negotiations that could reach an acceptable peace arrangement.

The important thing at this stage of the process is that all sides seem to be interested in keeping alive the exploratory momentum. In the past several months, ideas on moving towards a negotiated Arab-Israeli peace have come from Jordan, the PLO, the United States, the Soviet Union and Israel. Not a bad performance, for just a few months.

History has shown clearly that no protagonist in a conflict ever receives from the enemy all that has been demanded as preconditions for starting negotiations. Vietnam and Zimbabwe provide two recent examples. Similarly, neither the Arabs nor the Israelis will fully accept the conditions of the other to start a negotiating process.

The realistic objective should be to explore possibilities to start a negotiation that would not, in itself, require the parties to accept, a priori, dictates laid down by the other side. It would be reasonable to expect both sides to recognise, as a prerequisite for talks, the mutual right of both Israelis and Palestinians to national self-determination, security and internationally recognised and guaranteed frontiers. Beyond this, it would be difficult to have either side accept any of the other's demands before negotiations start.

Mr. Peres may be trying to send a signal, to the effect that he would like to be more forthcoming on peace strategies, but is hampered by his rightist coalition partners. This may be true, or it may only be an excuse.

The important fact today is that the key parties to the dispute are not flitting throwing out of the window the proposals of their protagonist, but rather are throwing them back with counter-proposals. If both sides appreciate more clearly today the will of the other to explore prospects of a negotiated peace in a sustained and serious manner, then one sees some hope among the gloom of the recent past.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israel defeated

ISRAELI MONDAY announced the completion of the third and last stage of its withdrawal from Lebanon, whether this is genuine or false, the most essential point is that the Israeli invasion of South Lebanon has failed to achieve its goals. Therefore, the idea of pulling out in defeat has entered the enemy's book for the first time from the Lebanese side.

One can simply conclude that Israel did not optionally withdraw from South Lebanon but was defeated there. Its decision to withdraw was not a Zionist decision but rather an expression of Lebanese national will, resistance and heroism which were carried out by determined resistance fighters.

Those were ready to offer their bodies and blood while the others were making muscle shows against each other in Beirut, seeking gains, turning the capital, which stood against Israeli soldiers, into a war zone.

One can also learn that the peoples' will cannot be defeated under the pressure of destructive weapons, and could subvert by invasion and aggression. All evil powers can not prevent a people from genuine expression of their heroic options. The outcome of the invasion is economic, military and psychological defeat.

One crucial point is that whether Israel did actually withdraw from Lebanon or whether it did not, we believe that the Zionist defeat has become a reality.

What patriotic Lebanese people have offered. Those who believe that Lebanon should remain a unified country will eventually triumph in putting an end to a strife for sectarian interests.

Al Dustour: Highest level meeting needed

ONE OF the main issues reflected at the Arab League Council meeting was a consensus for convening an Arab summit.

The council has decided to further discuss the issue when it meets on June 24 to hear from the Arab League secretary general on progress in his effort for implementing a resolution calling for a ceasefire at Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

Although the idea of convening the summit, was immediately opposed by a minority that thrives on the absence of any common Arab action, a minority that manipulated the absence of common Arab action to divert effort from the interest of national Arab goals. However, and in spite of that fact, the majority of Arab countries see it very urgent to convene the summit in the face of dangers and challenges confronting the nation.

It has become clear for Arab citizens everywhere, Arab leaders in particular that the Arab situation has deteriorated to a point that no remedy except an Arab meeting at the highest level can tackle.

Sawt Al Shaab: Peres manoeuvres

ON MONDAY, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres put forward before the Knesset what could be described as Israel's suggestion to counter peace initiatives.

Although those suggestions seem to revolve around a certain mechanism, suggested by Israel to follow up on peace talks, nonetheless, the core of these suggestions is triggered to contain the positive echoes left in the international arena following Jordan's peace initiative.

Israel shifted its plain opposition to peace steps into a political counter offensive aimed to switch global interest from the Jordanian moves and shatter international public opinion.

Israel's suggestions indicate an obvious drive to bypass the principle of having the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) participate in peace negotiations in the framework of a joint delegation with Jordan. The suggestions are also a bid to find an alternative conference.

Israel's proposition calls for a first stage of talks including the United States, Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Palestinians who are not members of the PLO. Following this stage, there would be a call for a conference comprising these parties to conduct talks the Camp David style, summing up to direct negotiations in all phases.

Israel is not concerned in putting forward any new suggestions to boost the peace process; nevertheless, its aim is to shatter the international efforts and to block the peace process.

Arab News



Zimbabwean news media pledges fair coverage of campaign for all parties

By Francis Mdlolonga

Reuter

HARARE — Editors of Zimbabwe's news media have pledged to give full and fair coverage to all nine political parties contesting the general election set for June 27 and July 1 and 2.

But they told Reuters in interviews they would want parties to conduct peaceful campaigns that would not inflame emotions of voters. Followers of rival parties have clashed at rallies repeatedly in various parts of the country during the past year.

Opposition parties have often complained of being ignored by the media, which they said gave free publicity to the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF). Editors deny this.

National ZANU News Agency chief Farai Muzvuvu said: "Each political party will be given fair play and we will allow them to say whatever they have to tell the electorate. We will follow each party's political campaign."

Mr. Willie Musarurwa, editor of the Sunday Mail weekly newspaper, commented: "Election candidates will be helped as much as possible to put across their views to voters and we guarantee that. But parties must conduct themselves responsibly as we would not be party to publicising inflammatory statements likely to cause violence."

Tomy Sithole, editor of Zimbabwe's largest daily newspaper, The Herald, also called for a peaceful campaign and said each political story would be judged on its news merits. The Herald would accept advertising by all parties, he said.

Geoffrey Nyarota, editor of The Chronicle daily published in Bulawayo, capital of southern Matabeleland province, said: "Each story will be judged on its merit, but all parties will have full and fair coverage."

Matabeleland is the powerbase of the chief opposition Zimbabwe African People's Union-Patriotic Front Party (PF-ZAPU) led by Joshua Nkomo.

All the three newspapers and ZANU are run by a largely state-owned body, the Zimbabwe Mass

Media Trust.

State-controlled Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) Director-General Tiriwavi Kangai has said parties will be given fair coverage, but that political statements should not attack state institutions, including the personalities of President Canaan Banana and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe.

The ZBC has been the most heavily criticised of all the media by the opposition in the past. Justice Minister Eddison Zvobgo promised the government would ensure parties had "free and fair" access to the media in its drive to ensure the poll was seen to be impartial.

Twenty seats reserved for whites until 1990 will be contested by former Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith's Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe and the Independent Zimbabwe Group led by parliamentarian Bill Irvine in a poll set for June 27.

The other 80 seats in the 100-member House of Assembly will be fought among seven black political parties, including Mr. Mug-

abe's ZANU-PF and PF-ZAPU, on July 1 and 2.

Other parties are the United African National Council of former premier Bishop Abel Muzorewa, ZANU of veteran nationalist The Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole, the National Democratic Union of Henry Chimhanda, Peter Mandaza's National Front of Zimbabwe and the National Progressive Alliance headed by Austin Marimba.

In an editorial last week, The Herald said the world focus would be on Zimbabwe during the coming elections and urged black parties to be positive in their campaigns and tell the 2.9 million electorate of their policies rather than attack each other.

It also called on rebels who have killed more than 200 civilians mainly in Matabeleland and neighbouring midlands provinces in the past three years to take the opportunity of the election to inform voters of their policies — if they had any.

The poll will be the first general election since independence in 1980.

French Communists open fire at government

By Alison Maitland

Reuter

PARIS — The French Communist Party has declared war on the Socialist government with a virulent verbal attack in the wake of violent clashes between Communist militants and riot police at a factory near Paris.

Police said 64 people were injured, four seriously, after about 200 Communists stormed a police line. Wednesday and occupied an engineering plant which had been closed down by the Swedish SKF company in 1983.

The left-wing daily Liberation said the violence in the suburb of Ivry was "just one shot in the Communists' tutti frutti broadside against the Socialists". It was easy to conclude that the Communists were backing the right in the run-up to general elections next March, the newspaper

said. The clashes were the worst labour violence in France since scores of people were hurt when right-wing and left-wing trade unionists clashed 18 months ago over job losses at a Talbot car plant outside Paris.

The Communist Party daily L'Humanite put full blame on the government Thursday in a lambasting front-page editorial illustrated with huge photographs of bloodied demonstrators surrounded by riot police.

"It is the hour of struggle," L'Humanite said. "The government and the ruling forces of society want to smash the slightest show of resistance."

"The (police) assault was ordered by the prime minister and the minister of the interior, in the name of the president, all three Socialists. The event is symbolic. But more than that, it is serious ...

it rings out as an alarm signal for all workers."

A police spokesman told Reuters 32 demonstrators and 32 police were injured in the clashes.

He said 52 people had been arrested and later released. The vast majority were local council employees belonging to the Communist-led CGT trade federation.

Only one was a former worker at SKF, he said. The plant is located in a Communist stronghold and one of the party's local councillors was among demonstrators on the factory roof when police stormed it, he said. There have been no charges so far.

"This was a well-organised demonstration by the Communist party and the CGT," a senior police officer said. "They used council trucks to block the roads around the factory."

The government has so far declined to rise to the Communist Party challenge. Interior Minister Pierre Joxe simply told the National Assembly Wednesday night: "People are fully entitled to demonstrate but the right to riot does not exist."

Political analysts said the party was desperately trying to obliterate the memory of its two years in government with the Socialists — now seen by the leadership as a disaster — and to boost its badly flagging fortunes.

Party bastions have been seriously weakened by modernisation of heavy industries with the loss of thousands of jobs.

The CGT, its strength also dropping, had until Wednesday been unable to mobilise members and a planned protest against job losses at state-owned Renault last month was a flop.

Military impatience, popular protest threaten survival of Panama government

By Mark Baillie

Reuter

PANAMA CITY — Panama's eight-month-old government is threatened by impatience in the powerful Defence Forces, increasing popular protests and discontent in the ruling party, according to political and diplomatic sources here.

"Those in charge must solve the social problems because otherwise the people will devour them," although Panama's politicians may fail, the military will not fail because the armed forces are for the people," Defence Forces Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega said in a speech on April 25.

President Nicolas Ardito Barletta recently had to bow to demands by the majority Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) and reshuffle his cabinet which further weakened his authority to tackle the same foreign debt which has set many social forces against him.

"I am more worried about the internal debate than the negotiations with the World Bank," a minister said on May 21.

Demonstrations against austerity measures and a wide variety of local issues have become commonplace since President Ardito Barletta took office last October after 16 years of military rule.

The opposition said the narrow 1,713-vote presidential election won awarded to official candidate Ardito Barletta after a secret count was fraudulent. Western diplomats agreed.

Street protests began in November, causing the repeal of unpopular new tax measures, and continued this month with a university strike, an electricity strike and a demonstration by schoolchildren demanding better sanitary facilities.

Banners and chanted slogans accused Gen. Noriega of links with the cocaine trade and the widespread corruption in Panama and taunted "Nicky Fraudito Barletta".

In a protest on May 20 against a new rubbish-burning site, nearby residents barricaded the airport highway, repelled a riot squad and got the authorities to move the site.

This reinforced what some diplomats called a dangerously growing confidence that the National Guard, now called the Defence Forces, can be defeated.

Diplomatic and political sources said they feared that sooner or later the guard will have to draw the line, someone will get killed and the increasingly vocal protests will turn violent.

Most of the problems stem from measures aimed at handling one of the biggest per capita foreign debts in Latin America — \$3.6 billion for a population of two million.

Reforms demanded by the

World Bank, which include removing long-standing industrial and agricultural subsidies and altering labour laws, have set a rare alliance of organised labour and the private sector against the government.

The sources said the National Guard blame Mr. Ardito Barletta, whom they imposed on the PRD last year as presidential candidate, for the protests and for failure to find an acceptable solution to the debt crisis.

But Ardito Barletta, a former World Bank executive, had little experience of party politics and alienated the PRD by selecting a technocratic cabinet from the tiny Liberal Party.

A sector of the PRD backed by the guard recently gained control of the cabinet but the sources said the continuing protests would pressure the guard to intervene more directly.

Signs of discontent from the military included tentative approaches to opposition leader Arnulfo Arias on the idea of a broad-based junta to defuse popular opposition, sources close to him said.

Mr. Arias, 83, rejected the idea, they added. Three times president and three times overthrown by the National Guard, he did not want to accept an alliance, the sources said.

Another sign was a well-publicised breakfast between the president and guard commander. Diplomats and politicians remembered the same ceremony preceding the fall of the two previous presidents and dubbed it "the last breakfast".

But unlike his easily appointed and silently dismissed predecessors, Mr. Ardito Barletta has one powerful backer, the United States. It sees its military and strategic interests in the area best served by maintaining the status quo and the appearance of a democratic rule. Western diplomatic sources said.

Southern Command, which controls all U.S. military activity in Latin America, particularly in troubled Central America, has its headquarters and some 10,000 troops here and the Panama Canal continues to handle more than half of the trade between the U.S. east and west coasts.

But how long Washington will use its influence to back Mr. Ardito Barletta depends on what the alternative is, the sources said, adding that for the moment there is a pause in political developments, a paralysis awaiting the next shock.

Industry is threatening lock-outs, labour is threatening strikes, all sorts of local groups are protesting against a variety of ills, and the organisation which organised the successful November austerity protests, the National Civic Coordinator, put out on May 22 a call for forthcoming action.

هذه هي الصورة

Palestinian theatre mixes politics with art

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The actors move in jerky, robotlike motions on the stage, slowly merging into a coordinated line dance. A white-helmeted figure descends from the rafters, pulls out a gun, and with a puzzled expression, fires at them. As the shots ring out, the line breaks up, each dancer resumes his isolated gyrations, then slumps to the ground motionless.

For the mixed Palestinian and Israeli audience in Arab Jerusalem, the meaning is clear. The dancers are Palestinians, thwarted in trying to achieve unity and purpose. The befuddled shooter represents the Israelis, confused by their own violence.

The scene is a typical production of El-Hakawati, a Palestinian theatre group that takes its name from the Arabic word for storyteller. The troupe's politically charged plays have injected fresh controversy into the lives of the two peoples living in this divided city.

The company's theatre, the first Palestinian cultural centre in the occupied territories, also hosts smaller Palestinian drama, dance and singing groups, as well as Palestinian art shows, book fairs and social and professional meetings. Occasional foreign political films are shown.

Raves from Israeli theatre critics inspired their mainly Jewish readers to go to East Jerusalem, a mostly Arab area, to see the underground theatre.

El-Hakawati was formed as a travelling troupe in 1977 by Francoise Abu Salem, its 32-year-old Bethlehem-born director. It began performing in Arab villages and refugee camps in Israel and the occupied West Bank, drawing large crowds from the start.

"In the villages, people could finally see something authentic, that wasn't 'Dallas,' or 'soap,' not television, and not in Hebrew," says Jackie Lubeck, 32, Abu Salem's Jewish, American-born wife and an actress in the company.

"They hadn't seen theatre in Arabic," Abu Salem says of the Israeli Arabs. "For years they had been deprived of contacts. We found them wondering whether they had somehow betrayed their people by living in Israel."

In 1983, the company leased the burned-out shell of a former

porno cinema in East Jerusalem that had been torched by Muslim zealots. The actors went to work, and, eight months and \$165,000 later, the abandoned movie house had been transformed into a 400-seat theatre hall with lighting and sound system, dressing rooms and a cafe.

The actors, mostly Palestinians from Israel and the occupied West Bank, usually are put up in private homes when they are on the road performing open-air plays in village squares and playgrounds. The carnival atmosphere surrounding the productions draws many to the plays, whose political messages often are expressed in phrases and scenes taken from village life.

The 15-member company has taken its show abroad, appearing in theatre festivals in Europe, Scandinavia and North Africa.

Ticket sales and rent of theatre space cover most of El-Hakawati's operating expenses, supplemented by support from Palestinians at home and abroad and a \$100,000 Ford Foundation grant.

El-Hakawati is a novelty for both Israelis and Palestinians. For the first time a Palestinian theatre company is addressing issues of social and political life in Israel and the West Bank.

Its productions are rich, carnival-like, relying on movement, colour, imaginative sets and pyrotechnics. The actors wear grotesque, multi-hued costumes, gaudy makeup, and dance and mime their way across the stage to music ranging from the traditional to Western disco.

Their language is colloquial, peppered with earthy proverbs and folk expressions.

The plays rarely follow a conventional storyline. They are usually broken up into scenes running the gamut of political cabaret, farce, tragicomedy, surrealist dream-like setting and depictions from Arab legend.

Between scenes, one of the figures in the drama steps out, and, assuming the identity of El-Hakawati, the storyteller, narrates the tale in ironic light verse.

The company has been harassed by Israeli security forces. Plainclothesmen and uniformed police occasionally monitor the theatre's activities. In February, some actors were detained for questioning about a Palestinian women's organisation meeting at the theatre. When the meeting convened, police took down participants' identity card numbers.

Military censorship has limited El-Hakawati's opportunities to perform in the West Bank. Paradoxically, it has greater freedom of expression in annexed East Jerusalem, which is subject to Israeli civil but not military law.

Requests for approval of plays for performance in the West Bank have run into bureaucratic delays. Submission of scripts for approval is often impossible since the company's plays largely are improvised.

Abu Salem says twice when replies to his requests were put off, El-Hakawati went ahead with shows anyway and suffered no punishment.

"It's Kafkaesque," says Abu Salem. "A game of cat and mouse."

He says censorship is partly responsible for the ambiguous way in which his plays convey their message, often through allegorical tales without overt national or political symbols.

Abu Salem acknowledges the style is a form of self-censorship. "You obviously do it. Not consciously, but you end up being careful."

But the ambiguity is not only the result of external constraints. It is also a matter of a theatrical technique that relies heavily on visual symbolism and figures of speech. Sharp messages are delivered with ironic humour.

"One hand punches while the other soothes," says Lubeck. Depictions of Israelis, formerly one-dimensional, have become more sophisticated. "Some Israeli reviewers would have liked it better if we caricatured them more," says Abu Salem.

"They expect to be battered, but we're more subtle," says Lubeck. "We make monsters and clowns out of everybody."

Abu Salem calls his leading characters "anti-heroes who tell the truth through their lies. We show what people are, not what they aren't. We aren't heroes, we're human beings."

One anti-hero is Ali the Galilean, the protagonist of a recent El-Hakawati production. Ali leaves his village to work in Tel Aviv, where he is torn between pressure to assimilate into the alien Israeli society and a need to maintain his own identity. After alternating between silent acquiescence and militancy, he goes mad.

Abu Salem says his company's treatment of the Palestinian condition as a human dilemma is an alternative to the rhetoric of political leaders.

"You can say it's the end of the issue when everyone is happy nationally, but we're human beings, oppressors and oppressed, and we will have to go on, there's still a long way. It's difficult to translate into political slogans."

El-Hakawati's indictment of political leadership is evident in a recent production, "The Story of the Eye and the Tooth." In one of its main scenes, the leaders of two feuding but related families circle the stage, their relatives trailing them, dressed in tatters and carrying their household belongings.

The two groups shower and sleep as they walk, stopping only to wage war on each other in symbolic battles that flare up at regular intervals.

As the conflict wears on, family members on both sides are wounded, but both leaders flash V-signs and recite meaningless slogans. One even draws blood from a follower and uses it as ink for a history of the conflict he is writing.

Abu Salem believes the alternative to such futile conflict and empty slogans is building a Palestinian cultural identity.

"We have to know where we came from, because in the struggle all our social fabric breaks down," he says, referring to a scene in a play in which a traditional village wedding dance turns into a raucous disco party.

"Many leaders forget that maintaining an identity is achieved by day-to-day survival, not only by having a just cause. We try to portray our belonging to certain roots. We're not a wax museum, we're alive."

"Palestinians either live in the present too much or in dreams about the end of the occupation. As if no time passes. If we want to become a nation, a state, it's time to see what we should put in it — theatre, society and the political system."

"What exactly is the conflict about? Space, oxygen, a flag. In a true sense it's a politics empty of ideology, but rather concerned with basic needs. Our men, our women, our bosses, we must have an opinion on them, otherwise we will be lost, and our people will only see the four colours of the flag and never any others."

El-Hakawati criticises Palestinian society, as well as Israeli. One play focused on oppressive

family relationships, depicting a father, mother and child caged by a trainer. Abu Salem says the play, which also included a rape scene, shocked its Palestinian audience into realising that internal oppression left it powerless in the face of adversity.

"We balance criticism and self-criticism," says Lubeck. "What we're saying is, 'Hey, wake up, look.'"

Abu Salem says the company's treatment of such issues is the main reason for the Israeli attempt to limit his company's activities.

"They can't forget we exist," he says.

Abu Salem developed his plan for political theatre shortly after his return in 1970 from three years of drama studies in France. He had left before the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war and arrived home to occupation.

"There was a general feeling of wanting to express oneself in cultural means," he recalls. "I was unable to act through direct military-political means, so I had to express myself culturally. There also was the desire to express something of the political and social needs of a generation of people."

Abu Salem met his wife, who came to Israel in 1972 after dropping out of college in the United States, at an amateur theatre production in Jewish west Jerusalem in the 1970s. The two live in East Jerusalem.

Lubeck, who learned Arabic and uses it fluently on stage, says she feels no conflict between her Jewishness and membership in El-Hakawati.

"I like living with Francois, I like the work," she says. "I'm neither an Israeli leftist nor Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)," a radical Palestinian group.

Lubeck says she and her husband's life and work in an ethnically divided city and country "just shows the absurdity of life, how silly it is."

As if to highlight her words, a scene unfolded as she spoke that was as surreal as one of El-Hakawati's plays.

An elderly American Jewish tourist walked into the theatre lobby, and clearly oblivious to his surroundings, asked Lubeck, "are you plays in Yiddish or English?"

"In Arabic," came the answer. The tourist walked out, confused. The couple looked at each other, then laughed.

Portrait of a Jerusalem organist

Lama has played the church organ for 65 years

By Lilyane Ayoub

FEW PEOPLE in Amman might know Augustine Lama. But in Jerusalem, he is certainly recognised. 1985 marks his 65th year as the official organist of the Franciscan Fathers who are the Custodians of the Holy Land.

His relationship with the Franciscans is long-lasting. It started more than 75 years ago, when, as a child of six, he was raised in the Terra Sancta in Bethlehem. His interest in music started at an early age as he was taught the solfège for singing purposes. When he was nine years old, he used to sneak in and play the piano, an act he was not allowed to do. Nevertheless, nothing deterred him from playing. Once, he even hid in a cupboard, waited for the other kids to go out for the usual walk, and when the coast was clear, the piano was all his.

During World War I, the organist emigrated; so Augustine was asked to fill his place until a replacement was to be found. The newly appointed one helped Augustine know the organ better and once told him: "Plant onions, eat onions. Plant men, they will eat you". So in 1920, when Augustine was appointed as the official organist, he remembered those words and he told his predecessor: "Your words do not apply to me. They put me in your place".

Thus began his career, his main responsibility being for the Holy Sepulchre and the parish church of Terra Sancta.

In 1927, the Franciscans summoned him to go to Alexandria in order to inaugurate the new organ in the cathedral. It was only then that he was given carte blanche to practise on the organ as much as he wanted, which helped him to perfect his playing.

Augustine used the piano as exercise for the sake of the organ, his favourite instrument. Among his preferred composers were Guilmont, Vierne, Bach and Pachelbel. Augustine himself composed a number of sacred music pieces, some of which the Franciscans took back to Europe.

"Sometimes one of the priests meets me in Jerusalem and says: 'Ah, so you're Augustine Lama, the composer of such a piece?'"

In 1934, the late King Abdullah came to visit the Terra Sancta. He awarded Augustine the Badge of Independence, (for that occasion, he composed a hymn). King Abdullah, later on summoned him to come to Amman and play the piano. At that time, one had to wear the tarboosh (fez) when meeting the king. Having none, Augustine borrowed one from a friend. As soon as he appeared, the King immediately noticed it and remarked, "This is not your tarboosh". In fact, Augustine's head was considerably bigger than his friend's. At one time, King Abdullah asked him what he thought of Beethoven. "He is a man who described nature with music". So he chose to play the moonlight sonata.

On another occasion, the king was playing chess while Augustine was asked to play the piano in the adjacent room which he did for quite a while. Then he thought "nobody's paying attention. I'll stop. No sooner did he stop than

he heard the king say, "Professor. Please go on. We're listening."

As he got more acquainted with King Abdullah, Augustine marked him as being "sensitive and highly intelligent, he spoke in a beautiful descriptive way."

Father George, the parish priest of Bethlehem thinks that "Augustine is often a reference on the Status Quo, so all the different churches trust and respect his word. At times, he is used as arbitrator when it comes to a misunderstanding." Asked if he thought someone else could replace Augustine, after he retires, Father George answered, "We are training some young people but none has his presence." He added that Augustine performed in the religious ceremonies and that he went daily to the Holy Sepulchre. At times, he even slept there for the night service, as the doors were locked after certain hours. On August's 50th wedding anniversary, for which the Franciscans made a big celebration, the priests counted the days Augustine slept in the church and found out that the number of days came to 101 per year, which in all added up to 19 years of his life.

"At times, during the night service, he would doze off and just



An early picture of Augustine Lama (Centre, dressed in white) with the Franciscan Fathers.



Mr. and Mrs. Lama during their celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Egyptian Palaeontologist busy collecting Omani musical fossils

By Jonathan Wright
Reuter

MUSCAT — An Egyptian palaeontologist has spent the last 22 months collecting thousands of recordings of traditional Omani music in an effort to preserve the country's rich musical heritage.

Dr. Youssef Shawki draws a parallel between his two disparate disciplines: "The approach is much the same whether you're looking for musical fossils or fossils in rock. You have to be equally rigorous."

The 59-year-old former professor, who in Egypt holds the title of under-secretary of culture, has already amassed and documented a corpus of 1,800 video recordings, 8,000 sound recordings and 21,000 colour photographs of Omani performers.

The pieces range from solo lamentations by the Harasis tribesmen of central Oman through seashanties by the people of the coast to hypnotic choral chants in praise of the Prophet Mohammed.

The instruments used vary from large sea shells and the horns of the African oryx to bamboo pipes and tall standing drums made from the trunks of palm trees.

Many genres were on the verge of extinction and some had to be recreated by old-timers who recalled them from their youth.

He has identified 129 varieties of traditional Omani song and dance, a number he says is unusually large because of the country's tribal structure.

"The tribes were very isolated from each other, and members of different tribes would never perform together," he said.

He estimates that Oman has at least 5,000 core performers, all of them part-timers and unpaid, except for voluntary donations when they appear at wedding parties.

Among the most unusual musical items he has found are a puppet performance by the Ajam, a once-enclaved sub-tribe of Persian origin, and a ritual dance in which men dress up as crows and tigers.

The project has unearthed a wealth of linguistic material on Omani dialects and will eventually help to trace the strong Persian, Baluchi and African influences on Omani life.

Several researchers had attempted to collect similar material before but all gave up in despair and went home complaining that no one would cooperate.

Dr. Shawki said one of the secrets of his success was starting from the top, working through the Ministry of Interior, then provincial governors and finally tribal chieftains, who instruct all established and aspiring performers to assemble at the appointed time and place.

The professor travels the countryside in a convoy designed to make as dignified an impression as possible. Two vehicles precede his own and an assistant announces his arrival to the local dignitaries before he puts in an appearance.

If he runs into hesitation on his arrival, he tells performers the recordings are going to Sultan Qaboos bin Said whose brainchild the project is.

Once farmers would take turns harvesting and threshing each other's grain, singing en masse, but today these tasks are done mechanically, often by immigrant workers.

Economic change has also wiped out southern songs connected with irrigation by waterwheels, now replaced by pumps.

Circumcision music and dance is disappearing because these days boys are usually circumcised by doctors soon after birth instead of at puberty, as in former times.

Dr. Shawki voiced concern at the effects of television. "Generally when television comes in the door, folklore jumps out of the window," he told Reuters, though he said it might renew interest in hearing and performing traditional music.

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9-day flight across the Atlantic

By Steve James
Reuter

NEW YORK — From the Statue of Liberty to the Eiffel Tower in nine days via Canada's Arctic north, Greenland, Iceland and Scotland — that's the aim of 70 flyers taking part in an unusual trans-Atlantic air rally this week.

Starting on June 14, they will pilot their single — and twin-engine planes 4,200 nautical miles through some of the world's worst weather conditions.

They will have the added hazard of having to fly part of the way over glaciers on radar due to the proximity of the North Pole, which throws off compasses by up to 70 degrees.

The 70, each with a co-pilot, range from a double amputee to a Harvard student, from a World War II Spitfire flying ace to a housewife.

There are Americans, Canadians, Britons and French taking part. Some have logged more than 23,000 flying hours, others barely the minimum required 200.

Two pilots are in wheelchairs — Leland Hamilton of California, and Daniel Campbell from New Jersey. Mr. Hamilton, 62, has been flying since 1941 despite being crippled by polio in 1952. Mr. Campbell is a double amputee.

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George Allen, 82, of Maryland, is the oldest competitor.

The rally, organised by the Paris-based Vap organisation in conjunction with Breitling, a maker of aviation chronographs, will be neither solo nor non-stop.

Nor is it a simple air race since the planes, ranging from beechcrafts to pipers and cessnas, have widely varying performances.

Apart from having to get to the finish as swiftly as possible, the flyers will also be judged on flying ability and tested in landing and take-off accuracy.

The teams take off from Morristown, New Jersey, and fly to New York City. They will be officially clocked-off as they round the statue of liberty in the bay just south of Manhattan.

Then they go north to Montreal, and later to Frobisher on Baffin Island in Canada's northwest territories, with a refuelling stop on the 1,977 kilometre leg that will take 10 to 12 hours.

During the flight, the pilots will take part in a "radar regulated turning point" — an accuracy test made more difficult because of the North Pole's effect on compasses.

The flight from Frobisher to Godthaab, Greenland is perhaps the most dangerous since the light planes must cross the Davis Strait, known for its violent winds. Due

to the hazards, all planes must carry a radio transmitter, life vests and a raft.

After a day's rest and maintenance, the flyers take off again on the 1,344-kilometre leg to Reykjavik, Iceland, which could take two days depending on the weather.

Following a flight over 3,600-metre glaciers, the pilots must take part in a precision landing test in the Icelandic capital.

The planes fly on to Aberdeen in northeastern Scotland and then head for Paris and the finishing point in view of the Eiffel Tower where they are scheduled to arrive on June 23.

Bob Rahn of California, is using the rally — in which his brother Donald will serve as co-pilot — to launch a year-long round-the-world tour with his wife Feppy.

"I've had my airplanes 24 years and have always had it at the back of my mind to fly round the world," said Mr. Rahn, 64, who retired last month from his job at Rockwell International, where he worked on the space shuttle programme.

Mr. Rahn, who was in the U.S. Air Force during World War II and flew 103 combat missions in British Spitfire fighters while based in England, will fly to Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

The attempt to outline the historic-cultural development of this revolutionising means of transport, which took place to a similar extent in other countries, is long overdue. The Nuremberg exhibition is a great success in this respect — DaD.

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Germany celebrates 150 years of railways

By Verner Von Busch

NUREMBERG — The German railway network celebrated its 50th birthday and everybody came.

During a special ceremony in Nuremberg, the birth place of German railways, Federal president, Richard von Weizsacker, pointed out that even today the railway system has "highly significant and forward-looking developmental opportunities".

Just as the railway in former times contributed towards the unification of the German states it can in future help bring European countries closer together, said the president.

In the presence of the transport minister, Werner Dollinger, and many of his opposite numbers from Europe and overseas the German head of state went on to officially open an exhibition on the history of the railway in Germany.

History was not only made by the railway but also with the railway — this is what the exhibition sets out to describe.

In a cleverly planned presentation of old railways set up in huge factory buildings, documents, photos, and exhibition items, the exhibition is a fascinating survey of 150 years of railway history.

The remark made by the Hanoverian king, Ernst August: "I do not want a railway in my state, I do not want every cobbler or tailor to be able to travel as fast as I can", shows how much resentment there was against the railway at the start of an epoch which saw the beginning of modern industrial society in Germany.

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Badminton enters Olympic arena

CALGARY, Alberta (R) — The International Badminton Federation (IBF) has hailed the decision to grant the sport full Olympic status in the 1992 games as a massive shot in the arm.

The IBF's Danish president, Paul Erik Nielsen, greeted last week's decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) with "overwhelming joy."

Former president Craig Reddie of Scotland, who did much of the spadework on the matter, said money from Olympic funds would give the game an enormous boost, but cautioned that the decision presented the IBF with a big challenge.

"There will be considerable demands on us now to do much more to promote the sport of badminton, to foster its advancement in areas of the world where it is not so advanced."

Reddie said he felt the biggest impact would be in Eastern Europe, where they concentrate almost entirely on Olympic sports, and in North America.

Reddie foresaw no problems over badminton's professionalism and prize money. "We will have to

rewrite our rules and will, I am certain, write out the concept of the registered player and just have players."

"But I can't believe we would present the IOC with any moral difficulties, especially with the developments taking place in other sports." He referred particularly to athletics, which now has a Grand Prix circuit similar to the one for badminton.

The IBF first mooted the idea of becoming an Olympic sport about 1964. "But I suppose we blew it then by not following up after it was a demonstration sport in 1972," Reddie said.

"We tried again in the late 1970s, but at that time we were tearing ourselves apart with the shambles of the IBF and the WBF (World Badminton Federation)."

The IOC won't touch a sport which has political difficulties because it has enough of those already.

England seek to solve their air problem in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (R) — England have their last chance against West Germany today to come to terms with testing playing conditions here before next year's World Cup soccer finals.

Manager Bobby Robson's team, virtually assured of qualifying for the 1986 finals in Mexico, have felt the strain of playing at this 2,300 metre altitude in the two previous games of their tour designed as a World Cup warm-up.

England lost both matches in the thin air which saps the strength of European players, makes the ball fly further and tends to neutralise the effect of spin.

Italy beat them 2-1 last week

and Mexico broke a 26-year losing streak against England with a 1-0 win on Sunday. The clash with the beaten 1982 World Cup finalists will be the last of the tour for England.

West Germany, who will be without at least five of their regular players including Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Hans-Pieter Briegel, will have had just one day to acclimatise as opposed to England's 14 days.

For that reason the match is not expected to be a classic, but neither Robson nor his counterpart Franz Beckenbauer will be particularly interested in the scoreline.

"These games are all about lea-

ming and that's just what we're doing," Robson said after the Mexico game.

England were generally sharper on Sunday than they were last Thursday against the Italians but the conditions clearly took their toll in the second half when Mexico were a goal up.

"I knew it would be extra difficult if we had to come from behind," Robson said. "Our players were tired later in the match and our passing and control went astray."

Mexico, England, West Germany and Italy have been playing a series of friendlies designed as a warm-up for next year but the sta-

ndard of play — and attendance at the Aztec stadium — has been disappointingly low.

There have been no signs of trouble from the handful of English fans here but on Sunday a small group claiming to represent the right-wing National Front Party shouted abuse at journalists whom they accused of over-emphasising the role of English supporters in the Brussels stadium tragedy.

The Brussels riot at last month's European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus left 38 people dead and led to an indefinite worldwide ban on English soccer clubs.

New York's Grand Prix race postponed

CHICAGO (AP) — Promoters of a Grand Prix race in New York Monday asked the international sanctioning body to withdraw the September date and place it instead on the 1986 racing calendar, the president of the Automobile Competitions Committee of the United States said.

"The promoters thought it would be best to put it off," said Burdett Martin of the U.S. Committee. "A New York race is such a significant undertaking that nobody wanted to get started with it unless we knew we could do it 100 per cent."

The U.S. committee, known as ACCUS, notified the Paris-based International Auto Sports Ass-

ociation, or FISA, by telegram Monday of the promoters' wishes. Martin said. The race was scheduled for Sept. 22, and the telegram did not ask for a particular date on the 1986 calendar, he said.

The New York Grand Prix would have been staged under the auspices of the Sports Car Club of America, or SCCA, a member of ACCUS.

The New York race was to have been part of the 16-event circuit's world championship, and leaves the June 23 event in Detroit as the only Grand Prix event that will be staged in the United States this year, Martin said.

Though most nations hold just one Grand Prix event each year,

FISA had been hopeful of staging two in the United States because of the importance of the American market, he said.

A Grand Prix event had been held in Long Beach, California, for six years, but rising costs prompted promoter Chrispook to swing to Indy-styled car racing two years ago. A Grand Prix event was held in Dallas last year, but did not continue because of financial problems.

"I would say without a doubt there'll be two races in the United States next year, though I'm not certain where," Martin said.

He said other cities being considered were San Francisco, Miami and Dallas.

Lerby out of action for six weeks

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — Bayern Munich's Danish midfielder Soeren Lerby will be out of action for at least five weeks after breaking a bone in his right foot while helping his team win the West German league title.

Bayern's team doctor said Tuesday that Lerby returned home to Denmark for the summer break Monday with his foot in plaster. Lerby broke the bone and tore ligaments in Bayern's 1-0 win in Brunswick on Saturday.

The 'monster' hosts U.S. Open Golf Championship

BIRMINGHAM, Michigan (R) — The legendary Ben Hogan labelled Oakland Hills "a monster" more than 30 years ago, and the course retains that reputation as it waits to host its fifth United States Open Golf championship this week.

"No doubt it's a monster," defending open champion Fuzzy Zoeller told Reuters Monday after a practice round on the 6,996-yard par-70 layout where the 85th U.S.

Open will begin on Thursday.

"The greens are very severe — that's where the problem is," said Zoeller, who won last year's open in an 18-hole playoff with Australian Greg Norman.

"Your second shot is extremely important," added the happy-go-lucky Zoeller, who is still recovering from surgery for a back problem which has pained him for years.

"The greens are so severe you

have to put your ball in the right place so you can go for the hole," he said.

"There are a lot of breaks out there you won't see on television," Zoeller said of the expansive, rolling greens which have remained virtually the same as when Donald Ross designed them in 1917 on land which he said "the Lord intended for a golf course."

"There's no way you can hit out of the rough and get it on the green," Zoeller said.

The rough is luxuriously thick, rich grass, well watered and fertilized, which has been allowed to grow to a height of five inches to narrow the landing areas and keep the long-hitting players on the straight and narrow off the tee.

Jack Nicklaus, who has won four U.S. and three British opens, spent much of his time during a round last week practicing greenside bunker and short chip shots, indicating he was anticipating missing some greens this weekend.

Nicklaus and 155 other golfers, including most of the best currently playing the game, will put

Oakland Hills to the test again.

Norman, the 1984 runner-up whose brilliant finish had Zoeller mistakenly waving a white towel in surrender on the 72nd hole last year, spoke from experience when he described playing in the open this week.

"You have to be able to put it all together," said Norman.

Zoeller, however, probably put it best when he was asked what it would take to win. "The lowest score," he said, without mentioning par.

There were few trees in the Michigan farmland northwest of Detroit when Ross set down the challenging course, but he and Walter Hagan, the first pro at Oakland Hills, predicted it would be among the best courses in the country.

As the trees grew and the course matured, it passed the test of time — and the assault of many of the world's finest golfers.

"This is the greatest test of golf I have ever played and the toughest courses," Hogan said after he won the 1951 open with a seven-over-par 287.

WATER AUTHORITY CONTRACTS OF WASTE WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR GREATER AMMAN

1. The Water Authority invites experienced Contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan and Contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been prequalified as General and First and Second Class Water and Sewerage Contractors and General Class Roads and Buildings Contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan to submit bids for the supply and construction of the sewerage net work mains sub 1 mains and house connections in greater AMMAN as following:-

- 108/85 The contract SW-S3 consist of 42 Km of concrete and ductile, pipes ranging in size from 150 mm to 400 mm in Sweileh-Safout-Ain Al Basha.
- 109/85 The contract BQ-S3 consists of 26 Km of concrete and ductile pipes, ranging in size from 150 mm to 300 mm in Baqa area Mabus, Abu-Hamed, Um El-Dananeer.
- 110/85 The contract KW-S3 consist of 38 Km of concrete and ductile, pipes ranging in size from 150 mm to 300 mm in Wadi El-Seer, Kelda, Umel-Sommaq.
- 111/85 The contract SH-S3 consist of 41 Km of concrete and ductile, pipes ranging in size from 150 mm to 400 mm in east Marka.

2. A prebid conference will be held on Monday 1st July, 1985 beginning at 9:00 hours at the office of the Water Authority.
3. On July 1, 1985 contractors or joint ventures shall submit in a sealed envelope in person or by mail the information on the firm or on the firms of the joint venture requested in the instruction to bidders, the information will be evaluated and contractors will be informed whether or not to submit a bid.
4. The bids are due not later than 12:00 noon, Jordan local time on Saturday 27th July, 1985 at the office of the Water Authority.
5. Contract documents may be examined and purchased at the following address:

Water Authority
Jabel Hussein
Nablus Street
P.O. Box (2412)
Amman, Jordan

Telephone: 666111
Telex: 22439 WAJ JO.

The cost of the initial copy of the contract documents purchased by a bidder is JD 150 per set, and the cost of any additional copies of the contract documents by a bidder is JD 75 per set. No refunds will be made for the return of full or partial sets of contract documents. Copies of the contract documents will be sent to prospective bidders by the Water Authority upon receipt of the proper amount in a bank check.

Eng. M.S. Kellani
President
Water Authority

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(G.M. Chairman Smith interviewed in Salzburg)

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SPORTS BRIEFS

New date set for Albania-Greece match

ZURICH (R) — The postponed World Cup qualifying match between Albania and Greece will take place in Tirana on October 19, the International Football Federation (FIFA) said Tuesday. The European group one match, originally scheduled to be played in April, was called off following the death of Albanian leader Enver Hoxha. FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said the two countries had mutually agreed to the new date.

World record holder, Ovett, comes back

LONDON (R) — World record holder Steve Ovett will compete next week in his first major track event since he collapsed during the Olympic 1,500 metres final last year. Ovett, 29, was Tuesday included in England's squad for the athletics match against the United States in Birmingham on June 21 when he will run over 3,000 metres.

Sabetini fined for pulling out of tournament

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — Argentina's new tennis star, 15-year-old Gabriela Sabetini, was fined a statutory 500 pounds, (\$630) Monday for pulling out of the Edgbaston cup women's international tournament. Sabetini, a losing semi-finalist to Chris Evert-Lloyd in the French Open last week and the world's top junior, withdrew because she did not want to risk injury on the grass surface, made greasy by steady rain the past few days.

Lloyd: Being no. 1 is a dream come true

LONDON (AP) — Chris Evert-Lloyd said Monday her elevation to no. 1 in the women's rankings after her French Open victory over arch-rival Martina Navratilova, was "like a dream come true." The 30-year-old haselinier downed Navratilova 6-3, 6-7, 7-5 at Roland Garros Saturday to stay on course for the Grand Slam after also winning the Australian title last December. Evert-Lloyd, who last was ranked no. 1 in June 1982, said from her London home: "It has always been a dream of mine to be back at no. 1."

Smith leaves Oxford, joins rivals

LONDON (R) — Just a few weeks after guiding Oxford city soccer club into England's division one for the first time in their history, manager Jim Smith has left to join rivals Queen's Park Rangers. Smith, 44, takes over as manager of the London team from Allan Mulvey, the former England player who was dismissed from the first division club late last year. Caretaker boss Frank Sibley did not want the job on a full-time basis.

Spain, Iceland meet in World Cup qualifier today

REYKJAVIK (R) — Spain's anxiety over their World Soccer Cup qualifying match against Iceland here today has provoked ill feeling between the rival trainers.

When Spanish trainer Miguel Munoz went to watch an Iceland training session Monday evening, Tony Knapp, the host nation's English coach, demanded he should leave the stadium.

The incident underlined the importance both teams are attaching to Wednesday's European group seven match, with Iceland still not completely out of contention and Spain needing to win to stay in touch with section leaders Scotland and Wales.

Munoz is well aware that Iceland are a formidable home team. They have already beaten Wales here and came within four minutes of taking a point off Scotland who won with an 86th-minute goal on May 28.

"The Icelandic team is first class," conceded Munoz, "and if they achieve the same union and fighting spirit as they did against Scotland, we may be heading for trouble."

The weather is an obvious worry to the Spanish. They might have felt at home on Tuesday under a cloudless sky but they can expect a chill northerly wind by the time the game kicks off late Wednesday evening.

Neither trainer has named his team. Iceland will be without their foreign-based players Asger Stigurvinnson, who plays for Stuttgart, and Arnor Gudjonsson, of Anderlecht, while Spain have been hit by injuries to Juan Senor, their bright new star Emilio Butragueno, Rafael Gordillo and goalkeeper Luis Arconada.

FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE

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— Beginning of classes: June 24th, 1985

— End of classes: August 3rd, 1985

— On Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 8 a.m. till 12 noon.

— Each lesson will last one hour.

— A film festival for children will take place during this period.

INTENSIVE COURSES FOR ADULTS - ALL LEVELS

Two sessions:

— From June 24th till August 3rd, 1985

— From August 5th till September 14th, 1985

— On Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3 p.m. till 7 p.m.

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Location: Um Uthaina, behind Um Uthaina Commercial Market, near Al-Waddan Supermarket.
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	<p>Cinema CONCORD Tel: 44092-44280 677420</p> <p>FAST TIMES (Colour) Performances: 3:30, 8:00, 10:45</p>	<p>Cinema AL-HUSSEIN Tel: 22117</p> <p>"GET IT" (Colour) Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155</p> <p>THE KILLING FIELDS (Colour) Performances: 3:30, 5:30, 8:15, 10:45</p>	<p>Cinema OPERA Tel: 675573</p> <p>PORKY II (Colour) Performances: 3:30, 5:30, 9:00, 10:45 Abdali, behind ALIA offices</p>	<p>Cinema PALESTINE Tel: 22117</p> <p>1- THE RETURN OF HEROES 2- THE SEVEN GATES OF HELL (Colour) Performances: 12-3-7</p>	<p>Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 22198</p> <p>THE FRONTIERS Arabic movie (Colour) Performances: 12-3-5:30-8</p>	<p>*** Cine- Theatre ***</p> <p>Philadelphia</p> <p>*** KLONDIKE FEVER ***</p> <p>Show at 3:30, 9:00, 10:45 TEL. 34144-34145</p>
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فيلم في 12 ص 3:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.2617/27	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3718/23	Canadian dollars
	3.0895/0910	West German marks
	3.4825/45	Dutch guilders
	2.5995/6010	Swiss francs
	62.28/33	Belgian francs
	9.4150/4250	French francs
	1967.5/8.5	Italian lire
	249.75/85	Japanese yen
	8.9175/9275	Swedish crowns
	8.8750/8850	Norwegian crowns
	11.0775/0875	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	313.20/313.70	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed firm on the back of encouraging company results, with trading quiet ahead of the offer for sale of Abbey Life Wednesday, dealers said. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up 9.2 points at 1,308.8.

Life insurances were firm, still benefiting from the U.K. government's decision to abolish earnings related state pensions. Legal and General was up 13p at 761 while Prudential was 7p higher at 723 after 726. Composite insurances were also in favour with General Accident up 17p at 625 after 626.

Government bonds were about 1/4 point firmer though trading was subdued. Golds were firm but North Americans were mixed. Interest centred on companies reporting figures Tuesday with Guinness up a penny at 281 after 285 following interim results at the top end of market expectations.

Metal Box was up 26p at 431 after 425. Its annual results while Argyl Group rose 13p to 331 following its full year figures. Capital and Counties ended 28p up at 223 after 228 on the £173 million bid by Transatlantic Insurance at 225p per share. Hanson Trust was up 4p at 216 following Tuesday's sharp fall on news of its £503 million rights issue.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: So many good ideas are coursing through your mind today that you would be wise to make notations so you will not forget them. Study them for ways to be more successful.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You are highly enthused and can get fine ideas and make plans for a more prosperous future.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Now you understand how to get some plan working in a most successful way, but avoid an irascible partner in the evening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are inspired just how to gain the wishes that motivate you, but forget work in the evening that can bring problems.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Put that new system to work that will make your career duties much easier to handle. Be sure to get the OK of a bigwig.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) New conditions are now in the offing so accept them and stop adhering to the old and obsolete. Make as many new contacts as you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Use a more modern angle in handling business affairs and you get better results. Forget outside visiting and spend time with mate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make new agreements with associates, and you can come to a better understanding with them. Don't commit yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to find a more modern system for handling your work so that it becomes easier and faster.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Partners may have fine ideas that should be listened to and gone along with. Tonight steer clear of any plotting.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Change your attitude at home and establish more harmony in that vital realm of your existence.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A good day to attend important meetings and keep appointments, but don't expect to get a favor from a bigwig in the p.m.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make a plan so that you can gain more prosperity in the future. Rest up and do nothing this evening but watch TV or read.

THE Daily Crossword by Frank Geary

ACROSS

- 1 Artz, city
- 3 Trade of the slants
- 8 Senses
- 10 Inflexible
- 14 Turkish
- 15 Spite like —
- 16 Raise
- 17 High up
- 18 — — — — —
- 19 Obstruction
- 20 Trickster
- 22 — of Yarus
- 24 River, river
- 25 Billed and
- 26 and
- 28 Native of: suff.
- 29 Lettuce type
- 32 Cathedral city
- 34 Flashcube
- 36 Expresses
- 37 Court
- 38 Feasibly
- 40 — — — — —
- 43 Utterly
- 46 — — — — —
- 47 Conquer
- 48 Ploated
- 50 Failure of
- 51 — — — — —
- 52 Blatant
- 57 Lapins of
- 59 — — — — —
- 60 H. river
- 61 Do-anything
- 62 Dictator
- 63 Cheryl or Alan
- 64 Bright lights
- 65 Palace of
- 66 Succulent
- 67 — — — — —
- 68 Storekeepers
- 69 Cruising

DOWN

- 1 120 cent
- 2 Pa. port
- 3 — — — — —
- 4 Hill boulder
- 5 Island near Java
- 6 Particle
- 7 Lottery
- 8 Mave
- 9 Gr. letter
- 10 Entry
- 11 Observe
- 12 Mast
- 13 More lanky
- 14 "Candid"
- 15 Camera's man
- 16 Off plant
- 17 Blood vessel
- 18 Fragment
- 19 Approval
- 20 Morning moisture
- 21 Swindlers
- 22 Purly
- 23 Made clothes
- 24 Help
- 25 Smoke
- 26 Exclamations
- 27 Identity
- 28 Shouting
- 29 Waco's
- 30 Consume
- 31 Caskers
- 32 Harry or
- 33 Ease
- 34 East away
- 35 Roosevelt's
- 36 Dog
- 37 Verbal
- 38 Annual
- 39 Plum
- 40 Fowl
- 41 Duty
- 42 Soap
- 43 Social affair

Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:

ROBIN ARCHES APISH
IRON SOUPY GOARD
TENTH STIMULATING
ASSIGNED BERTIE
PIRE SIDDLE
LARBEN MIRA LOBE
TOY LEDGER LOBE
CANASIA ADAPTED
TIGER TIGER SLY
TOSS TIGER DISPEL
CIBES BEN
OSAKA LIVERIED
SPRINGTIME UNYU
SAIL RUMON AGAN
AMAY DINERO HSTS

Financial squeeze hits Jordanian banks

Part I

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

In a two-part article, Rami G. Khouri examines the challenges that face banks in Jordan. He points to various views on Central Bank of Jordan regulations and how prominent bankers look at improving or amending them to stimulate the economy. Following is Part I of the article. Part II will appear in tomorrow's (Thursday's June 13) Jordan Times.

AMMAN — Like everyone else in Jordan during the boom decade between 1974-1983, Jordan's bankers expanded rapidly and profited handsomely, by servicing an economy that grew at a real average rate of eight per cent a year. But things have changed for Jordan's bankers, as the regional recession has caught up with a domestic economy that is growing at less than half its previous average rate.

The banking and finance sector is faced simultaneously with more competition and government regulation, squeezed margins, and greater leading risks — all of which combined to produce a 1984 year in which nine of the country's 16 commercial banks showed lower profits than the previous year.

For most of the past decade, the banking system's assets/liabilities grew by over 20 per cent a year, from JD 214 m. in 1973 to JD 2.16 billion in 1983, and stood at JD 2.456 billion in March of this year. More impressive than the absolute increase in credits and deposits was the system's horizontal expansion into new financial services.

By the early 1980s, the financial system included 16 commercial banks, two investment banks, five finance companies, three Islamic banking houses, four real estate-linked savings and loan associations, 33 insurance companies, a handful of large private pension funds, and several major government institutions such as the Social Security Corporation and the Pension Fund.

The managerial and risk analysis weaknesses inherent in too rapid expansion may have started to show up in the banks' 1984 performances.

Some, such as the venerable old Arab Bank and the conservative Bank of Jordan, increased net pro-

fits, as did the Arab Land Bank and the Jordan Islamic Bank. Jordanian banks whose profits dropped from their 1983 levels include Jordan National Bank, Cairo Amman Bank, Jordan Kuwait Bank, Para Bank and Jordan Gulf Bank.

Of the eight foreign banks in Jordan, four showed a rise in profits — the British Bank of the Middle East (BBME), Rafidain Bank, Arab Land Bank and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Three other foreign banks showed profits lower than their 1983 levels (Citibank, Chase, and Bank Almahrek), while Grindlays showed a loss similar in size to its previous year's loss.

Most bankers say this year will be much like 1984.

Despite this mixed performance, the banking system is fundamentally robust, growing and deep in human talent. But it is having to make long-term, structural adjustments and retrenchments in the midst of a difficult economic climate in the whole region.

The main problem is the depressed state of the economy, which showed a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rise of some 3.5 per cent in real terms last year, according to the government's preliminary estimates.

Reduced Arab official aid and flat workers' remittances have slowed the flow of foreign exchange into the economy, a trend which has only recently started to show up in monetary statistics.

While GDP and the banks' assets and liabilities continue to rise, other indicators show a flat or even mildly contracting economy.

Gross fixed capital formation, which grew from JD 138 million in 1976 to JD 564 m. in 1981, has been virtually frozen in real terms for the past three years, and de-

clined slightly in absolute terms in 1983.

Narrow money supply growth (M-1) actually declined slightly last year, though the broader M-2 measure grew nominally by over nine per cent — a far cry from the 25-30 per cent growth rates of the late 1970s.

This tightening liquidity situation was aggravated, bankers complain, by government directives last year requiring banks to increase by two per cent (to 12 per cent of deposits) their mandatory reserves invested in government bonds, treasury bills and public sector company bonds.

Liquidity has been squeezed at a time when demand for credit is surprisingly strong from both the public sector and Jordanian private firms caught in the three-year-old recession. Private sector borrowing grew by 16 per cent last year. The government borrowed 10 per cent more, and state-owned corporations 4.5 per cent more than in 1983.

Bankers complain that the Central Bank has squeezed their spreads by lowering maximum lending rates to an effective interest rate of 10.25 per cent (nine per cent interest and 1.25 per cent commission), while raising to 8.5 per cent the ceiling on interest payable on dinar deposits.

Bankers say their nominal spread has been cut by a full percentage point. They now average a two per cent spread between lending and deposit rates, compared to a 3-4 per cent spread a few years ago.

The Central Bank feels these complaints are exaggerated, and responds by pointing to the continued profitability of the banks.

Some of the more deposit-hungry local banks have routinely defied the deposit ceiling and offered their clients effective deposit rates of nine or even 9.5 per cent. Some banks who have to resort to the interbank market also suffer by paying higher interest to cover their funding requirements.

When the cost of mandatory reserves is calculated in the banks' say, their real cost of deposits funds often reaches nearly 10.5 per cent — compared to the maximum lending rate is 10.25 per

cent.

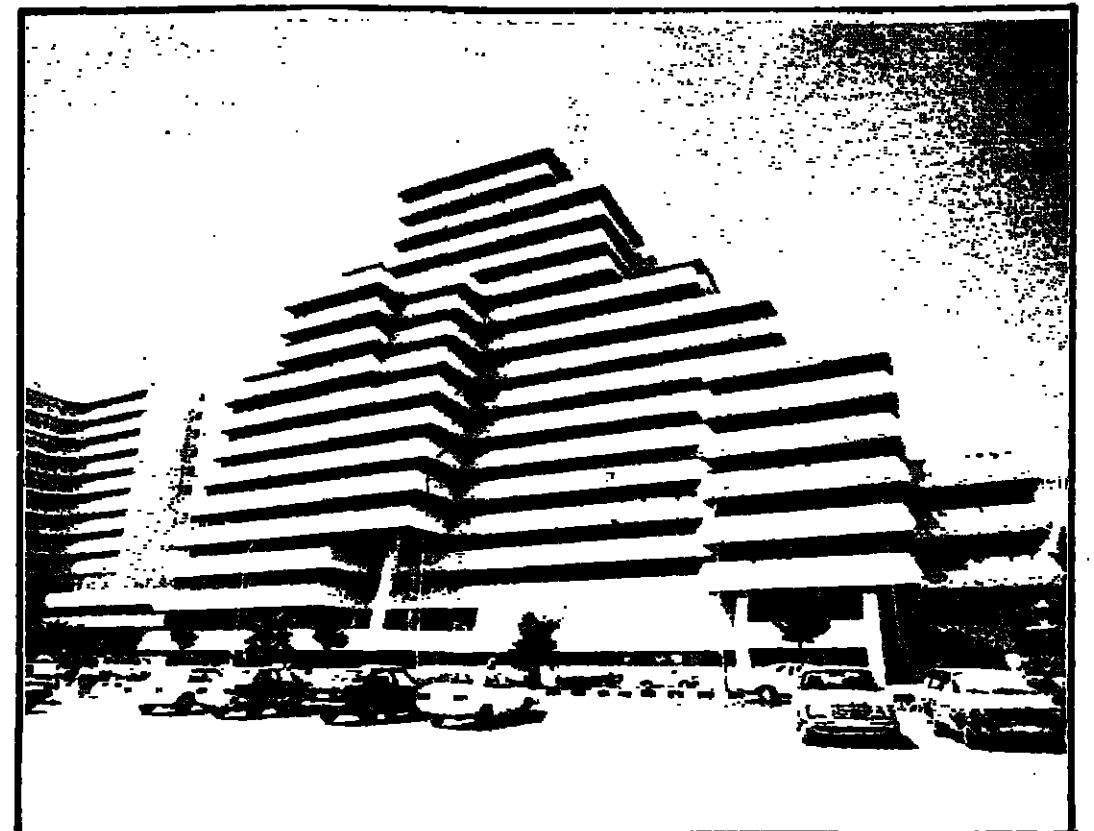
Retail innovation and automation should generate new business, while reducing banks' administrative costs in the coming years. Several banks (Petra and BBME) are introducing automated teller machines, a few (Arab Bank, Housing Bank) have opened special foreign exchange branches, while others (Chase, Housing Bank) have introduced afternoon hours.

More and more banks are setting up dealing rooms to generate profits from foreign exchange transactions. Citibank hopes to take advantage of the recent advances in Jordan's telecommunications infrastructure by offering electronic banking to its major clients.

On the whole, bankers in Jordan are following the international trend that sees banking services as a marketable commodity that has to be sold to clients in an increasingly deregulated and competitive marketplace.

This has manifested itself in Jordan in the spate of recent newspaper advertisements offering retail banking services, and some banks' introduction of gimmicks, such as lotteries, to attract depositors.

The banks' reduced spreads came when lending was already becoming riskier, because of the



The Housing Bank Complex is a major real-estate investment by the Housing Bank. About four Jordanian banks have already opened branches in the complex (File photo)

Commercial bankers do not agree, saying that intense competition for quality borrowers would keep average lending rates stable, or even see them decline somewhat.

The Central Bank has, in fact, toughened up its approval criteria for lucrative loans to foreign companies, hoping to redirect credit to the Jordanian private sector. The banks have not always cooperated, though, as a disproportionately high ratio of new lending has still gone to government or government-guaranteed borrowers.

This reflects not only the obvious lack of risk that accompanies a government-guaranteed loan, but also the nearly one per cent extra return banks earn by rediscouting with the Central Bank about one-third of the value of their participations in long-term (5-8 years) syndications and bonds.

First introduced into the market six years ago, syndicated loans and corporate bonds have been popular with both bankers and borrowers. A few years ago, a dinar-denominated facility could be put together at an interest rate of 6-8 percentage points less than a Euro-dollar loan.

The total value of extended syndicated loans rose 24 per cent last year to reach JD132m, while corporate bonds increased by 31 per cent, to JD 80.5 m.

Demand for public debt remains strong among banks and other institutional buyers. The JD four million bond issue put together earlier this year for the Jordan Water Authority received subscription offers from banks worth JD 7.8 million. No wonder, given that it was tax free, government guaranteed, partly rediscountable with the Central Bank, and carried an interest rate of nine per cent.

For its part, the Central Bank would like to introduce a more flexible interest rate structure, but fears interest rates will rise sharply, thereby aggravating inflation and hampering the economic recovery.

Ironically, this has squeezed credit availability to Jordanian private sector companies at the time when they need it most to weather the recession.

"The Central Bank has to raise its lending rates or the banks will keep slowing down their lending to the Jordanian private sector," one Western commercial banker predicts.

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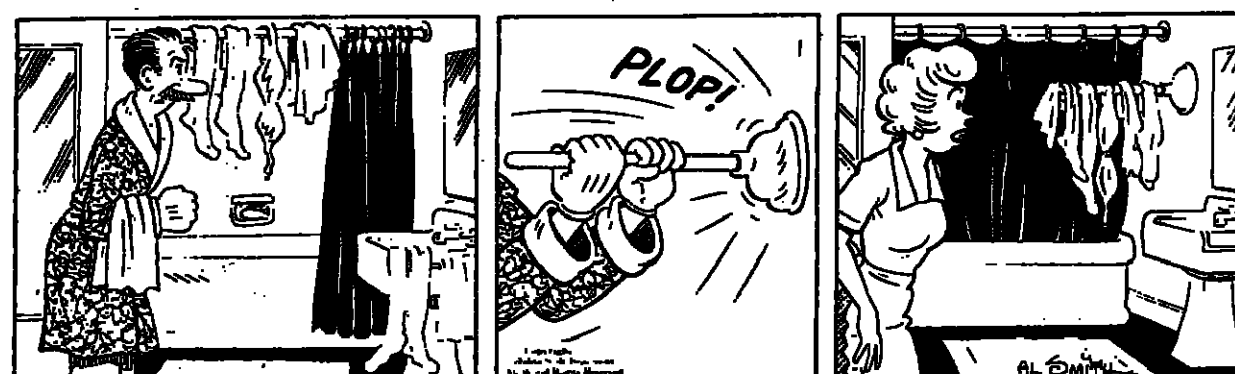
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Peanuts



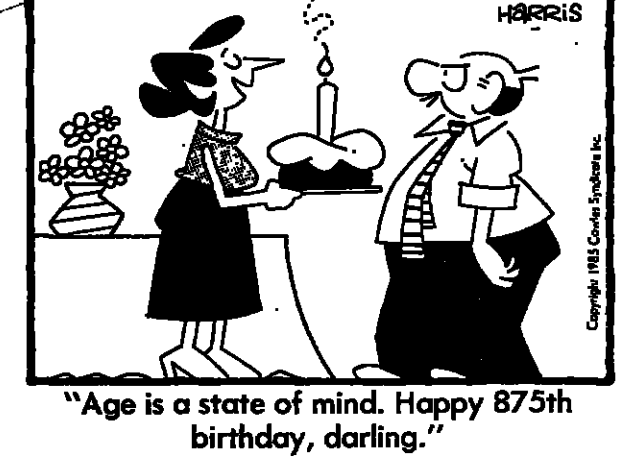
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KNUSK

TULIB

GENPOS

NAUMUT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: -

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LIVEN BROIL TINGLE MARROW

Answer: How the poor fish got hooked— WITH HIS OWN LINE

Soviets attack Reagan's SALT II announcement

MOSCOW (R) — The official Soviet News Agency TASS said Tuesday President Reagan's conditional pledge to abide by missile limits in the unratified SALT-II treaty showed Washington was still trying to destroy U.S.-Soviet arms control accords.

However Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Vladimir Lomelko took a softer line, saying Mr. Reagan's statement Monday night was being studied in Moscow and added, "let's wait and see."

The TASS report was the first Soviet comment on Mr. Reagan's statement that Washington would comply with the 1979 treaty while retaining the right to reverse the decision if Moscow violated it or failed to pursue arms control.

TASS said Mr. Reagan's statement showed the United States was keeping up a policy of violating its arms control commitments.

"It's essence is to erode and destroy everything positive that has been achieved in the sphere of security by joint efforts of the USSR and the United States in the 1970s," TASS said.

The TASS charge followed a stream of Soviet commentaries alleging the United States was planning to wreck the SALT-II accord, due to expire at the end of this year.

TASS said it was clear from Mr.

Reagan's statement that the U.S. was reserving the right to ignore any aspect of the accord that it deemed to be an obstacle to implementing its militaristic programmes.

It added that Mr. Reagan's allegations about Soviet behaviour were a pretext for this.

TASS said Mr. Reagan and National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane had made a big show of announcing the dismantling of a Poseidon nuclear submarine later this year when a new Trident submarine goes to sea to avoid violating SALT missile limits.

However, Mr. McFarlane told journalists Monday night that the vessel would not be scrapped but re-converted for cruise missiles, TASS said.

All this added up to further proof that Washington was not interested in curbing the arms race, TASS declared.

President Reagan, long a harsh critic of the 1979 SALT-II strategic arms treaty with the Soviet Union, has decided the United

States will remain for now within the missile limits set by the unratified agreement.

In order to respect the level of 1,200 launchers for missiles with multiple nuclear warheads set by the accord, the missiles with multiple nuclear warheads set by the accord, the United States will dismantle a Poseidon submarine in autumn when a new Trident submarine goes to sea.

The Trident's 24 nuclear missiles would have put the United States 14 over the limit.

But Mr. Reagan coupled his announcement of U.S. compliance with what he has called "the fatally flawed" SALT treaty with a warning he retained the right to reverse his decision if the Soviet Union did not live up to the accord or failed to actively pursue arms control agreements in Geneva talks.

"In the interest of ensuring that every opportunity to establish the secure, stable future we seek is fully explored, I am prepared to go the extra mile in seeking an interim framework of truly mutual restraint," he said in a statement.

Bonn welcomes U.S. pledge

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher Tuesday welcomed President Reagan's

conditional pledge to adhere to the SALT-II arms limitations accord and called on Moscow to do the same.

Mr. Genscher, in a West German radio interview, said the U.S. president's decision reflected Washington's readiness to heed the views of its NATO allies.

He said the unratified accord was an important theme at the NATO foreign ministers meeting in Lisbon last week where "we, as Europeans, advised (Washington) to continue to observe and apply this SALT-II agreement."

"We greatly welcome this decision by the American president because it... shows that the United States government wants to continue a cooperative arms dialogue with the Soviet Union," Mr. Genscher said.

"It is important, in order that the (U.S.-Soviet arms control) negotiations, in Geneva can be brought to a successful conclusion," he added.

"We appeal to the Soviet Union that, by strict adherence to the anti-ballistic missile treaty and respect for the SALT-II arrangement, they help make it possible for existing nuclear weapons finally to be drastically reduced as soon as possible."



OPERATING COLLECTIVELY: Soviet multi-apparatus operations theatre (AP wirephoto) eye surgeons operate on patients collectively at a

Gandhi's U.S. visit to boost ties

WASHINGTON (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India was scheduled to arrive on a five-day visit which Indian and U.S. officials alike hope will boost recent moves towards improving relations, beset by mutual suspicion for years.

The officials said they did not expect a major breakthrough even though Washington hoped that Mr. Gandhi would be more amenable to better relations than his mother, Indira, who was assassinated last October.

She negotiated India's 1971 friendship treaty with the Soviet Union.

U.S. officials, who asked not to be named, said a recent spate of high-level official American visits to New Delhi marked a serious effort by Washington to move closer to India.

But they said remarks highly critical of aspects of U.S. foreign and defence policy over the last month by Mr. Gandhi seriously dampened hopes of a breakthrough.

"I would be the last to want expectations to be dampened, but we must be realistic," India's ambassador to the United States, Shankar Bajpai, told reporters. "But I don't know that we can expect any major change."

Mr. Bajpai went on, "really, it's a platitude, but true. It's a question of deepening understanding."

The mutual suspicion is based on India's close relationship with Moscow and U.S. support for neighbouring Pakistan. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since the subcontinent was partitioned in 1947 and the two countries became independent from British colonial rule.

Mr. Gandhi, who meets President Reagan Wednesday chose Moscow for his first foreign visit last month since taking office. He called then for closer ties with the Soviet Union, India's major arms supplier and important trading partner.

Before leaving on his present five-nation trip, he criticised U.S. arms sales to Pakistan and accused Washington of turning a blind eye to alleged Pakistani progress towards building a nuclear bomb.

He lambasted Mr. Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), research into a space and land-based anti-missile system popularly known as "Star Wars", which Moscow says would give Washington the ability to launch a nuclear first strike.

U.S. officials said India's refusal to condemn the Soviet Union's 1979 military intervention in Afghanistan had upset Washington.

They added that Mr. Gandhi's comparison of the Soviet move with Washington's intervention in Grenada in 1983 had not helped. U.S. experts on India said the Reagan administration saw Mr. Gandhi's visit as a chance to encourage what they interpreted as India's considerable enthusiasm for better relations over the long term.

They said trade could be the key.

Mr. Gandhi, former airline pilot and computer enthusiast, has promised to bring India into the age of high technology and his first budget encouraged foreign investment in Indian industry.

A recent visit to New Delhi by U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige cleared the way for sales of high technology to India that U.S. officials see as an important step in improving relations.

During the Baldrige visit the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding on high technology sales which had been delayed because of U.S. concern that the technology might get to the Soviet Union through India.

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Japan hopes for Polish reconciliation

WARSAW (R) — Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe has said he hopes to see true national reconciliation in Poland and has reaffirmed that Japan wants East-West dialogue to continue, official Polish newspapers said Tuesday.

They said Mr. Abe, who is on a two-day visit to Poland, made the points in a speech at a banquet in Warsaw Monday night attended by Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski.

Mr. Abe is due to leave Poland for East Germany after talks with Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski.

"Japan today is vitally interested in progress being achieved under the national reconciliation line promoted by your government," Mr. Abe told Mr. Olszowski.

"We most earnestly hope that national reconciliation can be realised and that, on the basis of that achievement, you can take a great leap forward into the future," he added.

Mr. Abe said he and Mr. Olszowski agreed on the need to cooperate to preserve peace. "In order to reduce the threat of war, the dialogue between East and West must be maintained," he said.

Polish press articles have suggested Japan can scarcely expect Poland to repay its \$700-million debt to Tokyo unless it ends a ban on credit imposed after the free trade union Solidarity was suppressed under martial law in 1981.

But in his talks Monday Mr. Abe confined himself to saying that Japan was inclined to support Poland's request to join the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a move that could eventually lead to large-scale IMF credit for Poland.

Meanwhile Poland's most prominent dissident intellectuals have joined Solidarity Chairman Lech Walesa in condemning the trial of three colleagues on charges of illegal union activities.

A statement signed by Mr. Wal-

esa and 21 intellectuals accused the authorities of jailing people for their political beliefs and said the court in the current trial was guilty of a brutality unseen since the Stalinist era.

The statement, addressed to the Justice Committee of the Polish Parliament and made available to Western reporters in Warsaw, said: "We protest against depriving the defendants of the chance to defend themselves, against treading on their dignity and against the persecutions they face."

Dissident historian Adam Michnik and former underground leaders Wladyslaw Frasyniuk and Bogdan Lis are charged with leading an illegal union and fomenting public unrest. They face maximum five-year prison terms if convicted.

The statement said: "We protest against the jailing of people for their convictions, for honest civic activity and for defending society from poverty and exploitation."

Guerrillas blow up Sri Lankan hotel

COLOMBO (R) — Separatist Tamil Guerrillas blew up a hotel in Sri Lanka's eastern province Tuesday after security forces arrested about 50 guerrillas in a search operation, officials said.

They said the Moonlight Beach Hotel at Nilaveli, about 16 kilometres from Trincomalee, was completely destroyed.

There were no casualties, a spo-

kesman for the hotel told Reuters in Colombo. He said no tourists were inside the hotel at the time and the staff of 10 escaped unhurt.

The blast occurred hours after security forces combing the area arrested about 50 guerrillas, the officials said.

The guerrillas are fighting to set up a separate state for minority Tamils in the island's northern and

eastern provinces.

The hotel manager said tourists had deserted the Golden Beaches of the Trincomalee area in north east Sri Lanka because of ethnic unrest.

Scores of houses were burned in ethnic violence which erupted in the district about a month ago and about 10,000 people sought refuge in temples and schools.

Soviets drop landing module on Venus

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet space module has landed on Venus with scientific and communications instruments on board to carry out experiments, TASS News Agency said Tuesday.

The module made a soft landing on the Mermaid Plain and was carrying out research on the planet's surface. It was relaying information back to earth via the Vega-1 spacecraft which released the module two days ago.

Vega-1, which is taking part in an international project to study Venus and Halley's Comet, due to pass close to the solar system next year, also dropped a weather balloon equipped to test the planet's atmosphere, TASS said.

Filled with helium, it was currently drifting about 50 kilometres above the planet. The information it records will be tracked by an international network including the U.S. space agency NASA.

Vega-1, launched last December, passed Venus at a distance of 39,000 kilometres from its surface and was continuing towards its rendezvous with Halley's Comet, TASS said.

A second craft, Vega-2, launched a few days after, is due to approach Venus on Saturday.

A Soviet two-man space team meanwhile recharged the batteries in the Salyut-7 orbiting space station, which they are reactivating after eight months in mothballs, TASS said.

Japan hopes for Polish reconciliation

WARSAW (R) — Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe has said he hopes to see true national reconciliation in Poland and has reaffirmed that Japan wants East-West dialogue to continue, official Polish newspapers said Tuesday.

They said Mr. Abe, who is on a two-day visit to Poland, made the points in a speech at a banquet in Warsaw Monday night attended by Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski.

Mr. Abe is due to leave Poland for East Germany after talks with Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski.

"Japan today is vitally interested in progress being achieved under the national reconciliation line promoted by your government," Mr. Abe told Mr. Olszowski.

"We most earnestly hope that national reconciliation can be realised and that, on the basis of that achievement, you can take a great leap forward into the future," he added.

Mr. Abe said he and Mr. Olszowski agreed on the need to cooperate to preserve peace. "In order to reduce the threat of war, the dialogue between East and West must be maintained," he said.

Polish press articles have suggested Japan can scarcely expect Poland to repay its \$700-million debt to Tokyo unless it ends a ban on credit imposed after the free trade union Solidarity was suppressed under martial law in 1981.

But in his talks Monday Mr. Abe confined himself to saying that Japan was inclined to support Poland's request to join the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a move that could eventually lead to large-scale IMF credit for Poland.

Meanwhile Poland's most prominent dissident intellectuals have joined Solidarity Chairman Lech Walesa in condemning the trial of three colleagues on charges of illegal union activities.

A statement signed by Mr. Wal-

esa and 21 intellectuals accused the authorities of jailing people for their political beliefs and said the court in the current trial was guilty of a brutality unseen since the Stalinist era.

The statement, addressed to the Justice Committee of the Polish Parliament and made available to Western reporters in Warsaw, said: "We protest against depriving the defendants of the chance to defend themselves, against treading on their dignity and against the persecutions they face."

Dissident historian Adam Michnik and former underground leaders Wladyslaw Frasyniuk and Bogdan Lis are charged with leading an illegal union and fomenting public unrest. They face maximum five-year prison terms if convicted.

The statement said: "We protest against the jailing of people for their convictions, for honest civic activity and for defending society from poverty and exploitation."

Italian referendum boosts government

ROME (AP) — Voters rejected a referendum proposal for automatic pay increases tied to the cost of living, dealing a second major blow to the Communist opposition in less than a month.

"This tortured chapter has concluded in the way we had hoped," said Socialist Premier Bettino Craxi, who had threatened to resign with his five-party coalition if Italians approved the Communist-backed plan.

Mr. Craxi said that voters had "ended the Communist referendum initiative... aimed dangerously against the government."

Returns showed the measure losing by 18.3 million to 15.4 million votes — or 54.3 per cent to 45.7 per cent. Seventy-eight per cent of Italy's voters turned out Sunday and Monday, marking "Yes" or "No" on their ballots.

A majority of "yes" votes would have reversed government-mandated cuts in the automatic wage escalator, or "scala mobile," an index tied to the cost of living for a family of four.

Although the proposal would have fattened Italian monthly paychecks by only 27,200 lire (\$13.90) — one newspaper noted that would barely cover a daily cup

of coffee — the fight between the government and Communists took on larger dimensions.

The vote also was a referendum on Mr. Craxi's 2-year-old government, the third longest in Italian post-war history.

For the Communists, it was a failed chance to recoup widespread losses suffered in the May 12-13 local elections. Even in the so-called "red belt" across northern industrialised Italy — including Turin, Florence and Bologna — most voters said "No."

"We didn't win, but we got a significant affirmation," said Alessandro Natta, secretary of the West's largest Communist Party, referring to the nearly 46 per cent of voters who approved the Communist plan.

But L'Unita, the Communist Party daily, conceded, the outcome reflected a "reality" that couldn't be ignored, saying in its Tuesday edition, "We must make a reckoning of the results and continue with our reflections."

The "scala mobile" was established by negotiations between labour unions representing 22 million workers. Signed in 1983, the agreement was modified last year by the government.

Less than an hour after the polls

Swedish industrialist steps down over weapons exports

STOCKHOLM (R) — Allegations of arms sales to Iran have whipped up a political storm in Sweden, which bans the export of weapons to countries at war.

Leading industrialist Claes-Ulrik Winberg has stepped down as chairman of Sweden's Employers' Federation while police investigated reports of sales of explosives to Iran by the firm Ab Bofors, at a time when he was its managing director.

newspapers reported that Bofors shipped explosives worth \$11 million to Iran in violation of Swedish legislation banning arms sales to warring countries.

Iran has been at war with Iraq since 1980.

The reports have revived a long debate over weapons exports, with peace groups demanding a further tightening of Sweden's already stringent arms export laws.

"If Bofors circumvented the law in some way, then we must find better ways to control these exports," said Sture Ericson, a Social Democratic member of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee.

Trade Minister Mats Hellstrom Monday urged Winberg to take an active part in the police inquiry.

In addition to the explosives sales, which took place "a few years ago" according to Customs Director Sigvard Falkenberg, police are investigating alleged exports of Bofors ground-to-air missiles to Middle Eastern countries in 1980.

Official statistics show that Sweden exported arms at a total value of \$117 million in 1983 with the main customers being Nigeria, Singapore and India.

In response to criticism from peace activists and church groups, the government has said that some exports must be allowed to keep down costs in the domestic weapons industry, which has the Swedish Armed Forces as its main client.

Military presence is highly visible in Angola

LUANDA, ANGOLA (AP) — Although the workings of the government of Angola remain a well-kept secret from the rare Western visitor, there is little mystery about what the African nation's Soviet-supplied air force looks like.

Antonov-26s, used to ferry small contingents of troops, officials or equipment, and huge lumbering Antonov-12Us take about the runway of Luanda's 4th of February Airport as MIG fighters scream past overhead.

"The military isn't very happy about this," official guide Katia Airola acknowledges. "But that's how the Portuguese built the airport — the military runway right alongside the civilian part."

It will be 10 years in July since Portugal relinquished control over Angola after nearly five centuries of colonisation and 13 years of bitter warfare.

Mrs. Airola, a 54-year-old Finnish woman divorced from a Portuguese, chose to remain in Angola with her children after independence. She now works for the Ministry of Information and has Angolan citizenship.

Although the war ended for Portugal, it has never stopped for the government of the People's Movement of Angolan Liberation (MPLA) which continues to fight a South African-backed guerrilla movement called UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola).

The reality of all the years of warfare is underlined by the omnipresence of the military and be-

comes apparent in another way upon entering Luanda, a city of 1.5 million.

From the air the former jewel of Portugal's African empire is a city of tall buildings whose gleaming whiteness contrasts with the ochre-coloured earth and the deep blue Atlantic Ocean.

On the ground, city streets have taken a decade of wear and tear with no upkeep since the massive Portuguese departure. The city's 1975 population is estimated to have tripled.

Rubbish remains uncollected in the streets as special trucks imported several years ago sit idly by for want of spare parts for which there is no hard currency.

Half-finished shells of apartment blocks abandoned by departing Portuguese are everywhere. On the corner of Avenida Karl Marx and Rua Lenin stands a burned-out building, apparently untouched for years.

However, the city's big hotels are being renovated for the annual conference in September of heads of state of Portugal's five former African colonies.

The elegant Presidente, a gleaming tower of steel and glass, has already been renovated and is now under the management of the French hotel firm, Meridien.

As in most African countries, the Angolans are extremely sensitive about photographs. Reporters were repeatedly reminded to keep their cameras in their bags.

But despite the problems and the decay, the city bustles with traf-

fic and life — and the traffic limits work.

Mrs. Airola explains that people and automobiles are valuable commodities and said authorities crack down hard on speeders and drivers who cause accidents.

Although there is a midnight to 5 a.m. curfew, gunfire is heard every night in Luanda — sometimes just a few shots and other times rounds of automatic weapons fire.

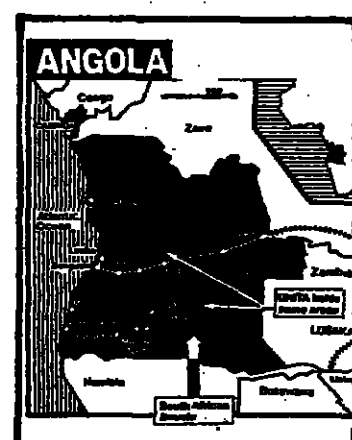
Four years ago the city's petroleum refinery was blown up in a nighttime attack claimed by UNITA but believed here to have been the work of South African commandos.

Several Western reporters were recently granted rare visas to Angola following a government announcement that Angolan troops had killed two and captured one South African commando May 21 in a foiled raid on the joint U.S.-Angolan Gulf Oil complex in northern Cabinda province.

South African officials first denied knowledge of the group, then said the commandos were gathering intelligence on black guerrillas they say were attempting to overthrow the white South African government.

Reporters heard the wounded South African, who identified himself as 27-year-old Winan Petrus Du Toit, tell a government-organised news conference that the attack in Cabinda Gulf Oil depot at Malange was intended to cause "considerable economic setback to the Angolan govern-

ment."



After the often-postponed news conference, the government flew reporters to Malange, 350 kilometres east of Luanda, capital of a province of the same name, to see a captured airport of arms, ammunition and supplies intended for UNITA guerrillas operating in the area.

As in Luanda, the military were everywhere, including some of the Cuban troops in the country, awaiting transport back to the capital.

The provincial military governor, Col. Ludy Kissasunda, said the 31-ton drop had been picked up 60 kilometres from the Zaire border but said it had come from South Africa.

All serial numbers had been filed off the Soviet-made AK 47 Kalashnikov and Portuguese-made G-3 assault rifles, but the medical supplies were manufactured in South Africa, and the labels of the plastic bags of "Steril" sterilized water were written in English and Afrikaans.

COLUMN

Ear acupuncture points used to treat gallstones

PEKING (AP) — Chinese doctors have developed a way to remove gallstones by attaching seeds to acupuncture points on the ear, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Doctors in the city of Nanjing attach seeds of the herb "semen vaccariae" to acupuncture points on the ears of patients to squeeze several times a day, the report said. The gallstones are generally discharged within a month, Xinhua said. It said one old woman who had gallstones for more than 10 years discharged 530 of them within two months of the start of her treatment.

Sellers widow wins damages

LONDON (AP) — Peter Sellers' widow Lynne Frederick won an additional \$475,000 from the makers of a Pink Panther film, which she described as an insult to her late husband's memory. Last month Judge Sir John S. Hobhouse London awarded Frederick \$1 million damages in a breach of contract action against United Artists Film Corporation for the film Trail Of The Pink Panther. It was released in 1982, two years after Sellers died, and was crafted from discarded clips from the five previous Pink Panther movies in which Sellers played the bungling French detective Inspector Clouseau. United Artists was ordered to pay legal costs estimated at £200,000 (\$250,000).

Man kills 6 children, commits suicide

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — A factory owner, facing business problems and the breakup of his marriage, killed himself and his six children with poisoned coffee, police reported Tuesday. Police said Yang Min-Shan, 35, left a suicide note explaining he was tired of living because of his business failures and his recent divorce. Cops of coffee found in Yang's apartment contained a poisonous pesticide, police said. Found dead with Yang were his four daughters and two sons, aged four to 15. Police said Yang operated a plastic factory and owed debts totaling 400,000 Taiwan dollars (\$10,000).

Pirates increase raids around Singapore

SINGAPORE (R) — Pirates armed with long knives have stepped up attacks on merchant ships around Singapore waters, according to police figures released Tuesday. Twenty-two pirate raids were recorded outside Singapore's territorial waters since the beginning of this year compared with 25 for the whole of 1984. Police gave no reason for the increase, but told Reuters shipping lines had been told to take precautions particularly in the Philip Channel, a narrow gateway to Singapore. The channel, which is under Indonesian jurisdiction, was a favoured place for attacks because ships such as oil tankers entering the waterway had to reduce speed. The pirates operated in groups of three to four men armed with long knives, police said.

Leaders of biggest cash robbery get 22-year sentences

LONDON (AP) — Two leaders of a gang that carried out Britain's biggest cash robbery were sentenced to 22 years in prison by a judge who said he regretted he could not recover the £6.3 million (then \$10.3 million) they stole in 1983. Judge Richard Lowry imposed 22-year prison terms on John Knight, 48, and Terrence Perkins, 36. They were convicted of robbery in the Old Bailey central criminal court last Friday for their part in the Easter Monday robbery in 1983 of the Security Express headquarters in London. Three other men received lesser sentences: James Knight, 58, John Knight's brother, received eight years for handling money from the robbery, John Horsley, 42, received eight years for robbery, and William Hickson, 41, received six years for handling money from the robbery. Judge Lowry, describing the ringleaders as "evil and ruthless men," declared them criminally bankrupt, which makes it possible to recover robbery proceeds from them. But he said their powers were "most limited" even though there was evidence that John Knight and Perkins had stashed large sums in Spain and in Guernsey in the Channel Islands.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for these hands we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting